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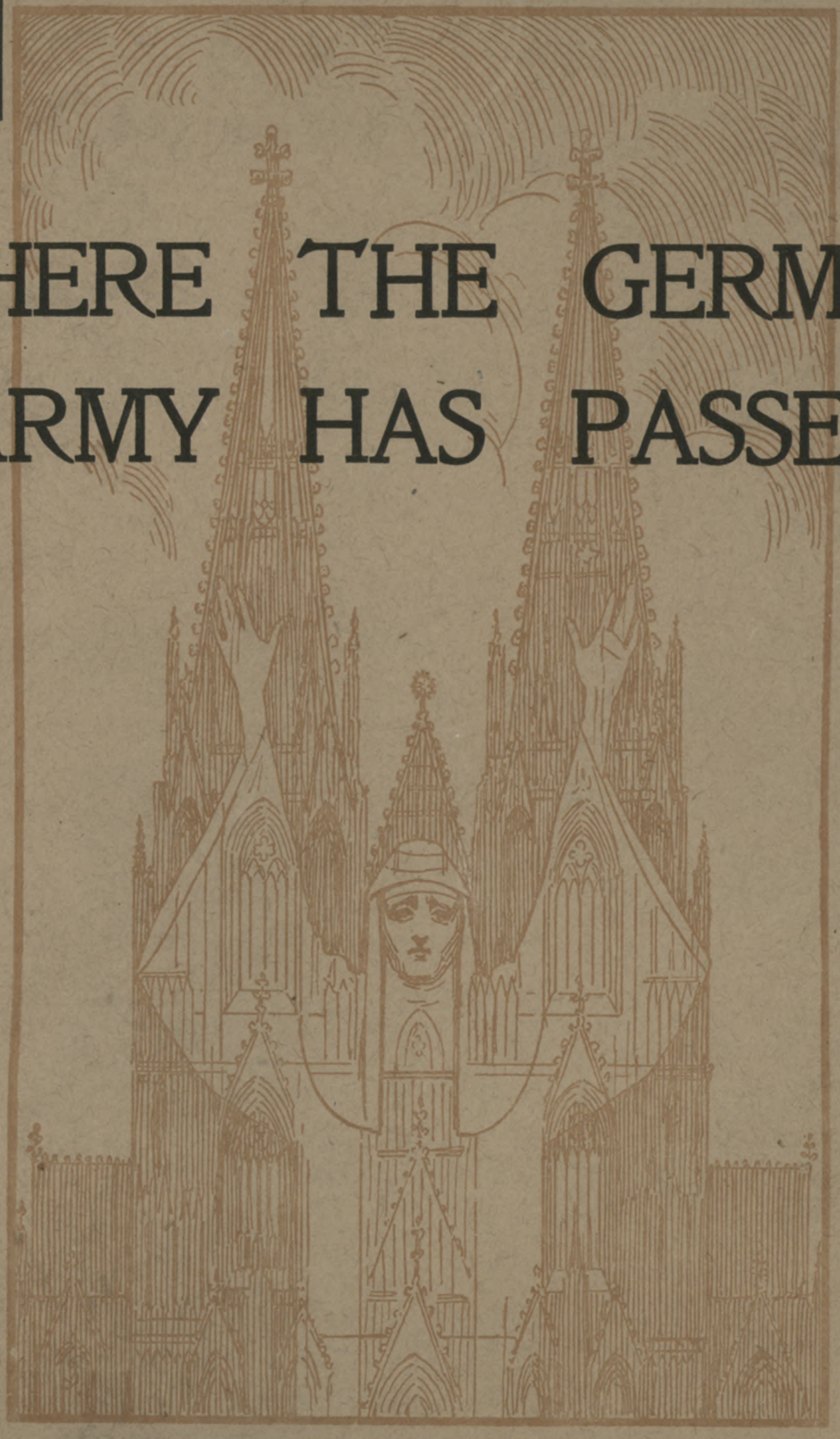

WHERE THE GERMAN ARMY HAS PASSED

The Daily Chronicle,
Fleet Street, London, E.C.
1915

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WHERE THE GERMAN ARMY HAS PASSED

BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL DE LISBOA

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LONDON

MCMXV

THE SILENT APPEAL OF NOTRE DAME AT ALBERT.

A German shell, striking the tower of the wrecked Church of Notre Dame Brebières at Albert, near Amiens, dislodged the large statue of the Virgin and Child, which now hangs as if in benediction over the stricken town.

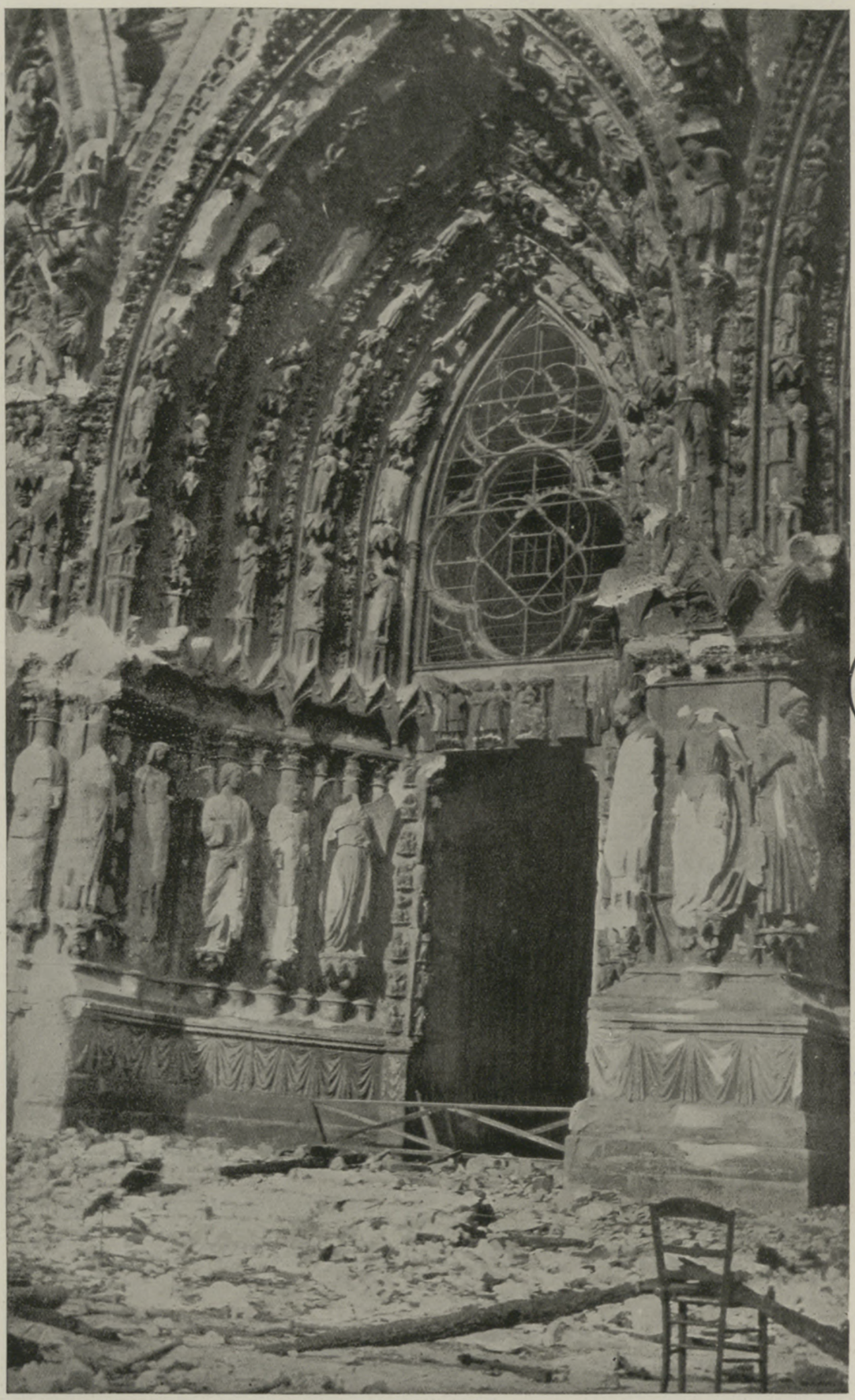
BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL DE LISBOA

RHEIMS CATHEDRAL.

Main front of the historic Cathedral of Rheims, one of the most beautiful specimens extant of mediæval architecture.

RHEIMS CATHEDRAL.

View of interior, showing the ruin wrought by the bombardment.



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RHEIMS CATHEDRAL.

View of west front, showing damage to the matchless statuary.

RHEIMS CATHEDRAL.

Another view, showing destruction of the Archbishop's house.

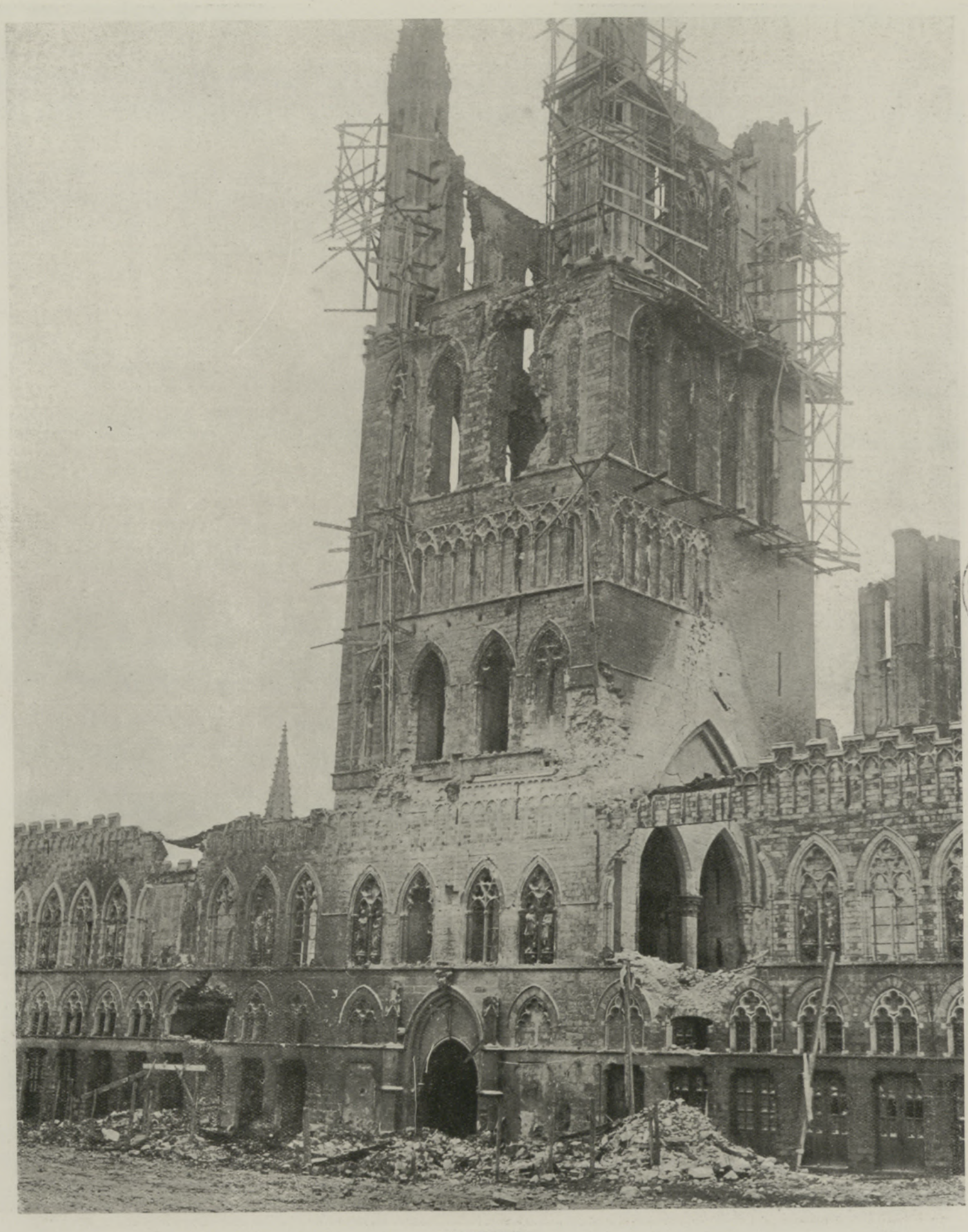
RHEIMS CATHEDRAL.

The House of the Archbishop of Rheims, which closely adjoins the Cathedral, has, like the Cathedral itself, suffered greatly from German shells.

BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL DE LISBOA

RHEIMS CATHEDRAL.

Another glimpse of the interior. Of the unique carved figures around the base of the two towers inside, only a mass of charred, broken, and blackened stone remains.



BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL DE LISBOA

YPRES.

The magnificent tower of the Market Hall, one of the most famous relics of mediæval Belgium, reduced to broken masonry.

YPRES.

From the wonderful arched cathedral roof a great mass of masonry has crashed into the choir stalls, and brought destruction to the very altar steps.

YPRES.

Fire destroyed the Cloth Hall, which is seen burning fiercely after the bombardment of the town.

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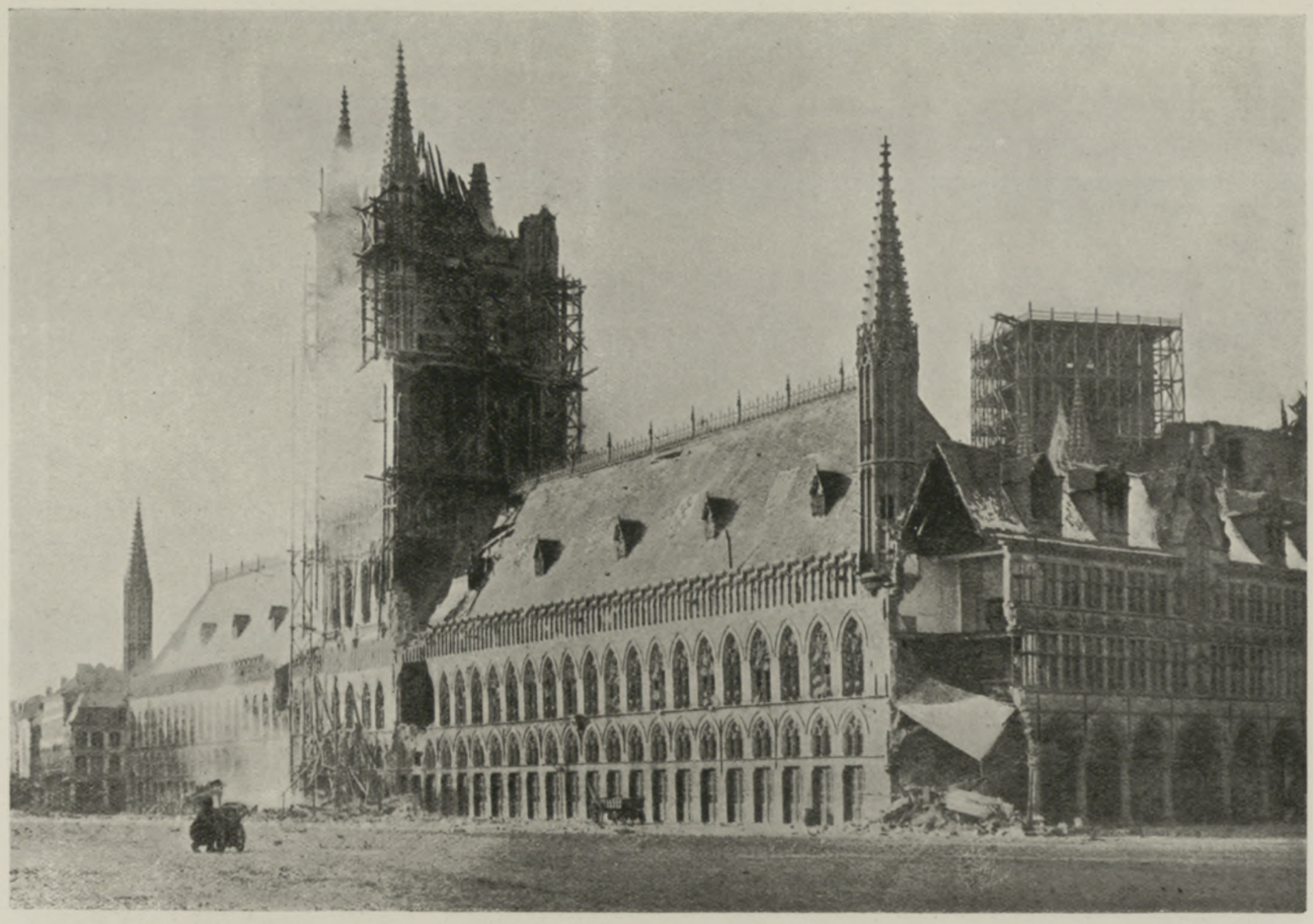

YPRES.

A general view of the Cloth Hall after the fire.

YPRES.

One of the principal streets showing the completeness with which buildings were destroyed.

LOUVAIN.

View of Grand Place, Louvain, showing Hôtel de Ville and Church of St. Pierre.

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LOUVAIN.

The arches are all that remain of the Ancient Cloth Hall, which is now open to the sky.

LOUVAIN.

Wreckage in the students' quarter at Louvain.

LOUVAIN.

Rue des Cordes, the principal street in Louvain, where not a single house escaped.

LOUVAIN.

General view of the most famous university town in Belgium after the bombardment.

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LOUVAIN.

Ruins near railway station, Louvain, including the remnant of Hôtel du Nord. The statue escaped injury.

LOUVAIN.

On the left is shown the damage to the University Library. The debris on the right is all that is left of a charming example of an early sixteenth century house.

MALINES.

Interior of Notre Dame Church after the bombardment.

BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL DE LISBOA

MALINES.

When the inhabitants of Malines returned they found it the scene of desolation shown in this photograph, most of the houses being gutted and many reduced to a heap of ruins.

MALINES.

A typical instance of the manner in which this town has suffered from shell fire. During the war the houses have been literally ripped to pieces by artillery.

BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL DE LISBOA

MALINES.

Malines is the ecclesiastical centre of Belgium, and the home of that true Belgian patriot, Cardinal Mercier. This photograph shows the cathedral of St. Rombaut's, Malines, after the German artillery had done its work.

MALINES.

General view of Malines Cathedral, showing damage to adjoining buildings, one of which, the headquarters of the Belgian Bowmen, has been completely gutted.

MALINES CATHEDRAL.

Exterior, showing shell holes.

MALINES.

By a singular chance the manuscript notes of the last sermon preached in Malines Cathedral, before the bombardment, were found on the altar pierced by fragments of burst shells.

BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL

HOTEL DE VILLE, TERMONDE.

One of Belgium's many beautiful municipal buildings which suffered at the hands of the Germans. The roof and interior were utterly destroyed; so also were the belfry and clock, which are not shown in this picture because of the height of the tower. Termonde, though an open town, suffered three separate bombardments from the Germans. The town is now in ruins.

BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL DE LISBOA

TERMONDE.

In the chaotic interior of the Bequinage Church at Termonde an exquisite piece of sculpture, depicting the crucified Christ at the foot of the Cross, stands out conspicuously, not having sustained the slightest injury.

TERMONDE.

Termonde suffered as much as any town in Belgium from the German invasion. This illustration depicts a priest surveying the ruin wrought in his beloved church by German artillery.

TERMONDE.

A typical scene of destruction.

TERMONDE.

A gloomy scene in Termonde.

BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL DE LISBOA

TERMONDE.

Belgium is celebrated for its arts and its music. Even Termonde, small as it was, had its Academy of Arts, which was burnt and battered by the apostles of "Kultur."

VISÉ.

German soldiers in occupation of the town, indifferent to the miseries they have wrought.

VISÉ.

The shocking mutilation of the church by artillery fire is shown in this view of the interior.

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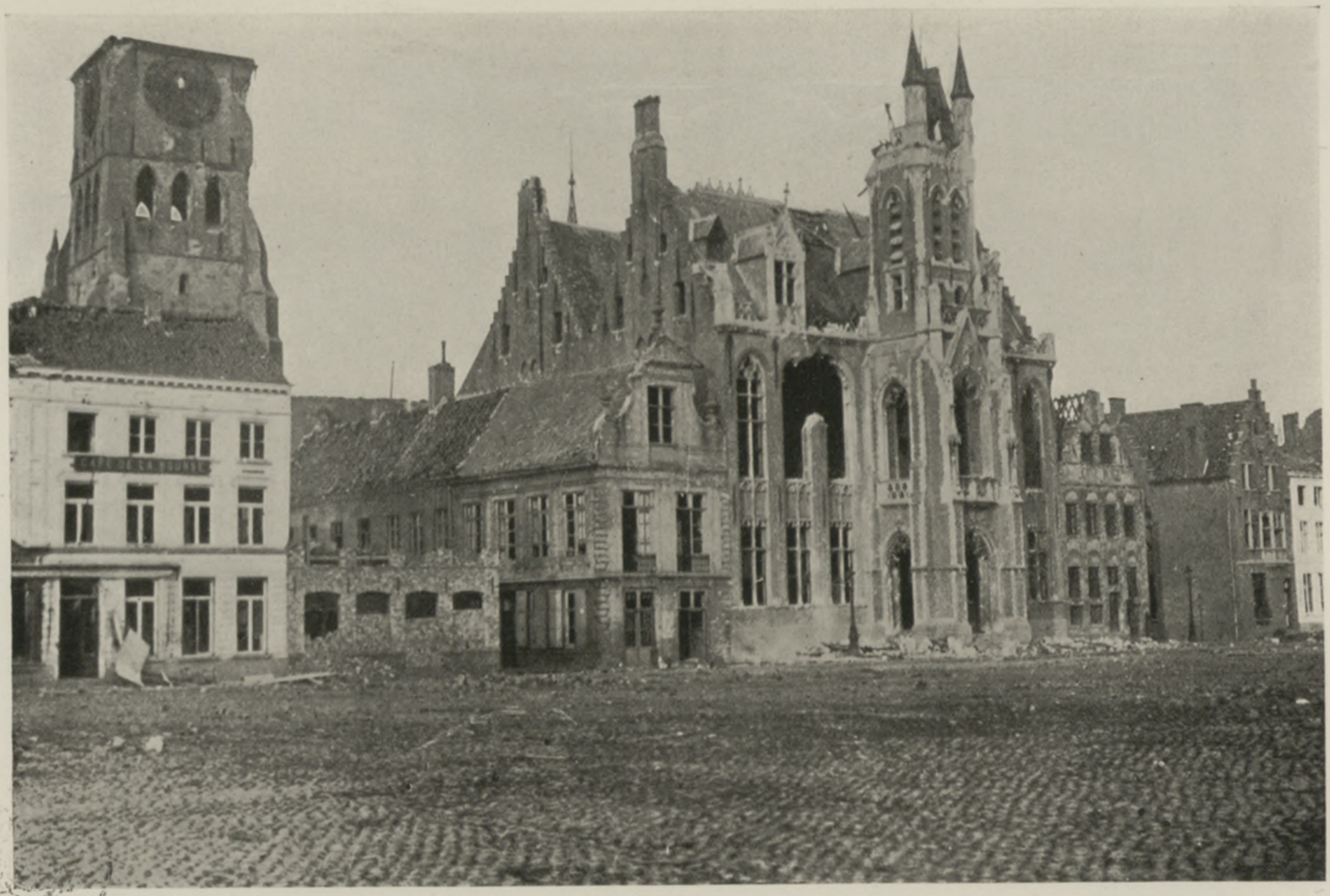
CHURCH AT VISÉ.

Two views of the church which was bombarded and burnt by German troops. In the second, German soldiers are seen surveying the destruction.



DIXMUDE.

The main street of Dixmude, showing the beautiful church (on left) and Town Hall (on right) in ruins.

DIXMUDE.

Another view of the buildings, illustrating the damage done by shell fire.

NIEUPORT.

No architectural shrine has remained inviolate from the German shells, and the Cathedral is now a mere ruin.

BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL DE LISBOA

YPRES.

The interior of Ypres Cathedral after the bombardment, showing the famous picture "Descent from the Cross" torn by shell fire.

LIERRE.

Among the buildings which suffered in this town were those of the Jesuit Order (foreground) and the Cathedral of Saint Genarrus.

ANTWERP.

An interesting seventeenth century relic. The house of David Teniers, the famous Flemish painter, which was destroyed during the siege.

PERVYSE.

The main street of Pervyse battered by shell fire.

BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL DE LISBOA

PERVYSE.

The tower of the church standing among the ruins of the town.

BRUGES.

Interior of the Church of St. Claire, near Bruges.

HERVE.

This small town was wantonly destroyed by the German invaders, one of whom is seen among the street group standing before the demolished buildings.

BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL DE LISBOA

LIÉGE.

Some of the German Army surveying their handiwork in the Place de l'Université.

RAMSCAPELLE.

The wrecked fabric of the church of Ramscapelle shows the deliberate character of German vandalism.

RAMSCAPELLE.

The demolished main street. What can be the feelings of the solitary figure facing the wrecked homestead?

MELLE.

Belgium's great sacrifice was shared by rich and poor alike. Here are some poor villagers of Melle surveying their fire-gutted cottages.

BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL DE LISBOA

BURNT-OUT HOUSES AT MELLE.

Wantonly destroyed. The destruction of unoffending villages was a feature of the German advance through Belgium, the idea being apparently to terrorise the entire population.

DUFFEL.

Remains of the houses surrounding the Kilianus statue, erected to the first Belgian printer. It will be seen that the head of the figure itself has been blown away.

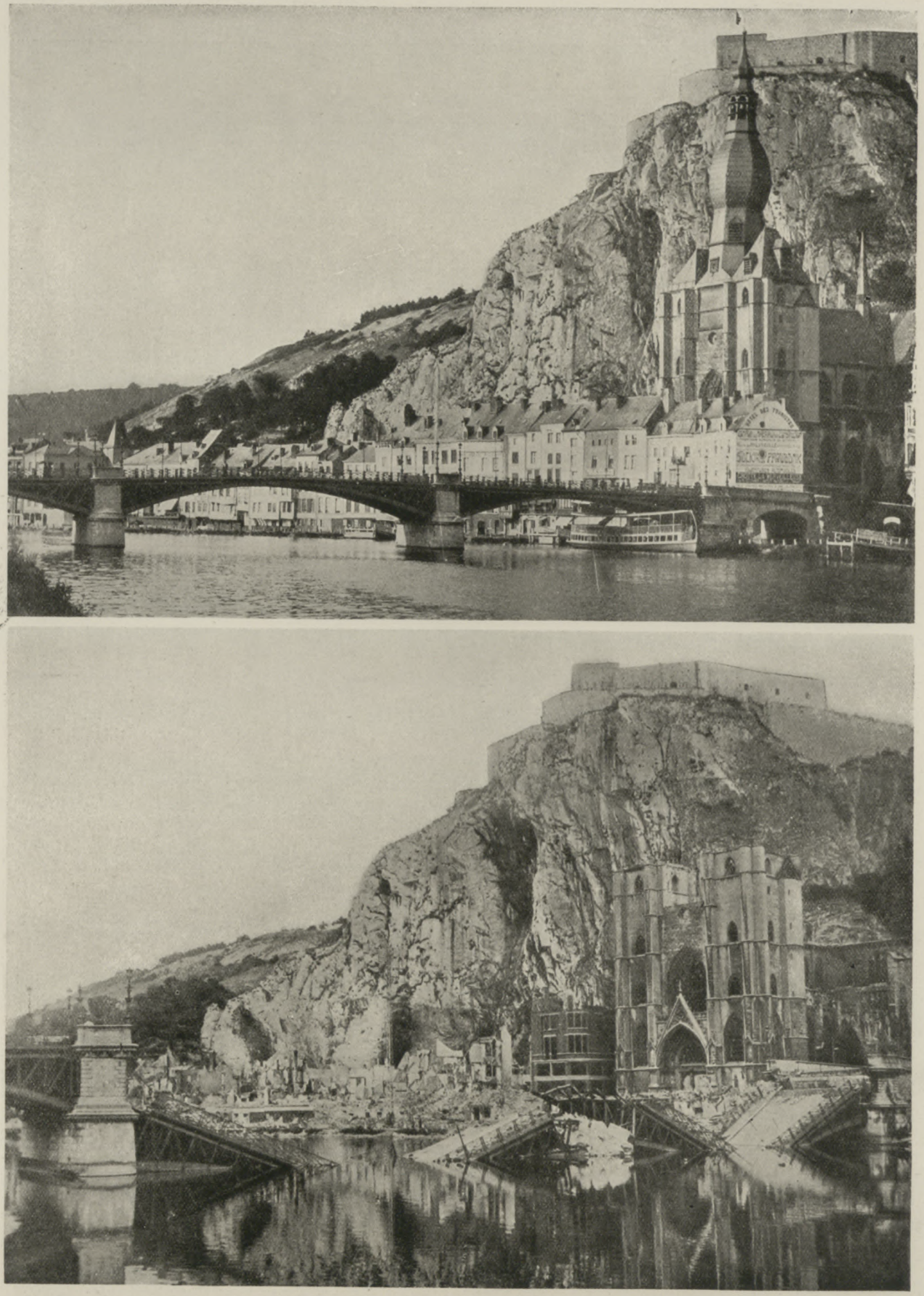
MOULAND.

German soldiers, who had been engaged in burning the village of Mouland, passing through the village square.

CONTICH.

When the Germans besieged Antwerp they set fire to this town with their shrapnel, and the panic-stricken inhabitants fled.

BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL LISBOA



DINANT.

The church before and after bombardment. Note the destruction of the tower.

DIXMUDE.

A septuagenarian victim of the Germanic lust for world power. Helpless and homeless, she awaits the inevitable end, inspired by that "faith which passeth all understanding."

BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL DE LISBOA

HOMELESS FAMILY AT TERMONDE.

The desolation wrought by the Germans in Belgium is typified in this picture. Could anything be more eloquent of human misery than the hopeless expression on the faces of this poor woman and her innocent children.

MOULAND.

Only the rumbling of the forage wagons and commissariat are heard in the deserted streets of Mouland.

MOULAND.

No living thing is left here. Ironically, a plough (in foreground) is cast upon the scrap heap.

German Methods of War in Belgium and France.

THIS collection of photographs will give the reader an opportunity of realising how the German army during the first four months of the war has systematically spread ruin and devastation, especially in Belgium.

As a matter of fact these photographs only represent a very small portion of the work of destruction to which the Germans have devoted themselves. They merely serve to illustrate these methods by a few of the many thousand examples that might be taken. The reader who desires to be more fully informed on this subject should read at the end of this volume the official reports of the commissions of Inquiry on the violation of the Laws and customs of war appointed by the Belgian and the French Governments.

The world will perhaps never know the full extent of Belgium's sufferings and of the destruction inflicted upon her by the German Empire as a price for having refused to betray treaty obligations for the benefit of the latter. But it is within the power and in the interest of every thinking person who has a regard for the truth to learn the real meaning of that "culture" of which the Germans are so proud; and it is therefore the duty of all who possess proofs to place them within the reach of those who would know the truth. It is safe to say that since the great barbarian invasions, or at any rate since the formation of the great European States, no civilised country has waged war as has Germany in Belgium in 1914. The essence of war between modern civilised countries is that it is waged by one state against another, by one army against another, by one soldier against another, but not by the State against the individual. By virtue of this principle the civilian population has the right, unless it has been guilty of treacherous aggression, to remain outside the conflict and to be immune from any act of hostility. Private property is inviolable. The masterpieces of art, the monuments of religion and learning, enjoy special sanctity. These strict injunctions are embodied in the codes of the international conventions of The Hague, and are at once the just pride of our times and one of the most precious victories of civilisation over the wars of primitive barbarism. Germany has trampled upon them all.

Her soldiers have waged war against the innocent unarmed civilian population of Belgium, killing thousands of men, old men, women and children. They have wickedly destroyed and pillaged private property. Purely for the love of destruction, and without "military necessity," they have shamelessly devastated historical monuments, the finest masterpieces of religion, science and art.

The official reports of the Belgian Commission of Enquiry furnish the most heartrending proofs of the fearful atrocities committed on the persons of the civilian population of nearly all the villages and towns in Belgium through which the German Army has passed. It will be understood that one cannot, however, produce photographs of these cruelties, as in each case the fiends who committed them were careful enough to cover up all traces of them. There are witnesses nevertheless whose depositions have been taken on oath.

The ruins still standing of churches, monuments, libraries, law courts, hospitals, houses which have been burnt down or bombarded, are silent but irrefutable witnesses. After examining the photographs which appear in this book, let the reader ask himself if a more terrible act of indictment could be drawn up against the country whose army has committed such acts of vandalism.

The German Empire is in this matter absolutely without excuse. The facts prove that its armies in their work of destruction have acted deliberately and without any military necessity. In this connection it will be relevant to note a few points of considerable importance:—

1. The striking resemblance in the aspect of the various towns which have been devastated. Everywhere it is the same kind of monuments that have been chosen as the object of this insensate destruction. Everywhere it is the same kind of destruction carried out with the same weapons and in the same way. The German Army (here as in all its military operations) has left nothing to chance. In times of peace the German soldiers had been studiously and diligently trained in the art of that destruction which they have now carried out.

2. The enormous area of destruction. Even admitting that it was carried out under the pretext of reprisals or under military necessities, its vastness is entirely disproportionate to the end in view. In this lies the special feature of cruelty which characterises the work of the German Army.

3. The fact that the work of destruction took place simultaneously over a wide area. Often these deeds were perpetrated on the same day and in the same week at points widely distant from one another by troops belonging to different units. This alone would suffice to eliminate the hypothesis that they were due to chance. The work of destruction carried out by the German Army does not from any point of view bear the stamp of being accidental. It is in no way the result of the chances of war. The occurrences which took place were such that their cause can only be explained by deliberate and carefully planned orders from the military authority. Moreover, the remarkable degree of discipline of the German soldier would of itself preclude us from attributing any appreciable part of these deeds to unexpected outbreaks of disorder and breaches of discipline. It follows from what has been said that it is the generals of the German Army who are in fact the true originators, and are actually responsible for the destruction that has been wrought. Not only was this work of destruction carried out with their approval, but they had actually planned it beforehand. As a means of intimidation it evidently formed part of the programme of crushing Belgium that the German Government had planned in the event of a free passage being refused to their troops. It can be said in all truth that what the German Army did in Belgium was not only vandalism, but was conscious and reasoned barbarism. If everywhere in Belgium there was murder, rape, pillage, arson, and bombardment, even where no fighting was going on, this was because it was hoped by this means—a supposition as base as it was unfounded—to strike terror into the Belgian people and force them tamely to submit to the will of the invader.

By an incredible refinement of cruelty, Germany has aimed alike at the pride of heart and pride of intellect of this unhappy country. To break her pride of heart they have demolished the monuments of her glorious history; to strike at her pride of intellect they have attacked her most famous seat of learning; Louvain, the university town, the Oxford of Belgium.

The burning of the principal quarters of this town, after they had been pillaged, including the destruction of its beautiful collégiale of St. Pierre, and its old library containing 150,000 volumes and thousands of manuscripts and priceless incunabula, are instances of the achievements of Germany's methods of waging war in Belgium, just as the bombardment of Rheims Cathedral is typical of their operations in France.

It has been said that the Germans spared nothing in Belgium that should have commanded their respect. That is too modest a statement.

The truth is that they went out of their way everywhere systematically to discover, reach, profane and destroy everything that was dearest to the soul of the Belgian people. Louvain, Aershot, Dinant, Andenne, Termonde, Malines, Lierre, in August and September; Nieuport, Dixmude, and, above all, Ypres, in October and November, 1914; these wonderful, glorious or beautiful names of martyred towns will remain inscribed in letters of fire and blood, with those of Rheims, Arras, Senlis, Albert and Lille, in the annals of what I might call "the German military industry." The faithful historian will not fail to observe that not one voice, whether of savant or artist, priest or bishop, was raised in Germany in public protest in the name of humanity against such crimes.

He will observe that it is on the territory of a little nation whose neutrality and independence she herself had guaranteed that the colossal German Empire perpetrated the most cold-blooded cruelties. He will observe that in less than four months of German occupation during the war, this little country, hitherto one of the richest in western Europe in monuments of art and historical relics, saw her soil piled up with more irreparable ruin and saw more of her treasures and masterpieces perish in the flames than she had lost in all the wars of the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, and those of the Revolution of the Empire put together.

He will observe that in the course of four centuries of war Belgium was not pillaged and victimised by requisitions in so shameless a manner as by the Germans of the 20th century.

He will observe that never before in the course of her history did the cruelty of an invader cause the flight of so large a portion of her civil population, about two millions out of 7½ millions, that is to say, about a third.

He will observe the miserable fate meted out under the heel of the German soldier to this honest, peaceful, industrious and prosperous people.

He will observe that Belgium had to suffer all this because she had refused to prostitute her political honour before the lust of Pan-Germanism.

But he will observe also that, in spite of undergoing this awful reign of terror, in spite of the occupation by armed forces of almost the whole of her territory, this valiant little nation, led by its heroic young King, was ready to brace herself to meet the test of her courage, and suddenly to meet her deep misfortune with a deeper patriotism; that the finest blood of her sons was poured out unsparingly to defend the banks of the last of her rivers and the last parishes of her last province; and that at the flimsy barrier of the Yser, Belgium strove with so fierce an energy that she wrung victory from the unwilling hands of fate. He will observe lastly that with the aid of those whose cause she had saved in defending her own honour, she will succeed in driving the invader out of her territory that he had so odiously profaned, and in flinging wide the portals of a radiant future.

In France, as in Belgium, venerable monuments suffered at the hands of the Germans. Intelligence of the bombardment of Rheims Cathedral sent a thrill of horror through the civilised world. This glorious building, which dates from the fourteenth century, is a poem in stone. It has been called, not inaptly, "the Acropolis of France." Apart from its architectural glories, it is indissolubly associated with French history. To quote a French antiquary, M. Emile Hovelaque, "it is the cradle of our kings, the high altar of our race, a sanctuary and a shrine dear from every memory, sacred in every thought." It was here that Charles VII. was crowned after the redemption of France by Joan of Arc.

The German guns bombarded the cathedral on September 19th. Consequent upon the bombardment the roof took fire and was entirely consumed. Before the bombardment a large number of wounded German prisoners were accommodated on the floor of the cathedral. It was thought that this fact and the flying of the Red Cross flag from the main tower would have protected the venerable edifice even from the storms of war. Alas! a vain expectation. Some of the wounded Germans were killed during the bombardment, but most of them were removed to safety by the exertions of the clergy and some of the townspeople.

Irreparable damage has been done to the building. All the exquisite decorated glass in the windows, unmatched in the world for beauty and artistic charm, has been utterly destroyed. Mr. Whitney Warren, an American architect, who visited Rheims to examine the damage, writes:—

> "The extraordinary stone sculptures decorating the entire interior of the western wall have been calcinated. These sculptures are peculiar to Rheims, being in high full relief and cut out of the stone itself instead of being applied. Their loss is irreparable. All the wonderful glass in the nave is absolutely gone; that of the apse still exists, though greatly damaged.
>
> "The fire on the outside calcinated the greater part of the façade, the north tower, and the entire clerestory, with the flying buttresses and the turret crowning each of them. This stone is irretrievably damaged and flakes off when touched. Consequently all decorative motifs, wherever the flame touched them, are lost."

In the damage done to the Archbishop's Palace, the "Salle des Rois," the robing chamber used on coronation day by 21 French Kings, was reduced to ashes.

Senlis, a small cathedral town 20 miles north of Paris, was the scene of one of the worst outrages committed in the course of the war. The Germans occupied Senlis on September 2nd. A civilian, the keeper of a wine-shop, named Simon, fired from his door-step at some German soldiers marching through the street, killing one and wounding another. This act sent the Germans into uncontrollable fury. Simon and his son were at once shot. Not content with that, they arrested the Mayor, M. Odent (who knew nothing of what had happened), and a dozen other principal inhabitants, bound them, placed them against a wall, and shot them all. Then they proceeded to destroy the town by fire. "We have decided," said the German officer in command, "to make an example of Senlis just as we did of Louvain." Owing to the urgent entreaties of the priest they were induced to spare the cathedral, and allowed their rage to be satisfied by the destruction of the principal streets.

Pillage was indulged in by the German soldiery with unrestrained licence on their devastating progress through Belgium and the north of France. No respect whatever was paid to private property. Of the conduct of the German troops no better evidence is needed than the appended quotations from the diary of a German officer found on one of the battlefields in France:—

> August 17th.—Damnably wet. We are staying an extra day here to prevent our men getting soaked through.
>
> In the afternoon I had a look at the little château belonging to one of the King's Secretaries (not at home). Our men had behaved like regular vandals. They had looted the cellar first and then had turned their attention to the bedrooms and thrown things about all over the place. They had even made fruitless efforts to smash the safe open. Everything was topsy-turvy. Magnificent furniture, silk, and even china. This is what happens when the men are allowed to requisition for themselves. I am sure they must have taken away a heap of useless stuff simply for the pleasure of looting.
>
> September 3rd.—Still at Rethel, on guard over prisoners. The houses are charming inside. The middle-class in France has magnificent furniture. We found stylish pieces everywhere, and beautiful silk, but in what a state! . . . Good God! . . . Every bit of furniture broken, mirrors smashed. The Vandals themselves could not have done more damage. This place is a disgrace to our army. The inhabitants who fled could not have expected, of course, that all their goods would have been left in full after so many troops had passed. But the column commanders are responsible for the greater part of the damage, as they could have prevented the looting and destruction.

The French and Belgian official reports are given at the end of this book.

What has happened in those parts of France still in possession of the invader we shall not know until French soil has been liberated from his defiling touch. But we may form some impression of his doings from the terrible details published in the French official reports of what took place in those districts of western France from whence he has been driven by the gallant armies of the Republic. May the day soon dawn when the fair land of France will be cleared of the last German soldier, and French national life be restored to its glorious fulness, richness, and strength!

Germany was represented at the Hague Peace Conference in 1907, and her delegates signed the conventions agreed to by that world tribunal.

Among the solemn declarations of the Hague Conference to which Germany gave her adhesion were the following:—

> The territory of neutral Powers is inviolable.
>
> Belligerents are forbidden to move troops or convoys, whether of munitions of war or of supplies, across the territory of a neutral Power.
>
> Belligerents are forbidden to destroy or seize enemy property, unless such destruction or seizure be imperatively demanded by the necessities of war.
>
> The attack or bombardment, by any means whatever, of undefended towns, villages, dwellings, or buildings, is forbidden.
>
> In sieges and bombardments all necessary steps must be taken to spare as far as possible buildings dedicated to public worship, art, science, or charitable purposes, historic monuments, hospitals, and places where the sick and wounded are collected, provided they are not being used at the time for military purposes.
>
> The giving over to pillage of a town or place, even when taken by assault, is forbidden.
>
> No collective penalty, pecuniary or otherwise, shall be inflicted upon the population on account of the acts of individuals for which it cannot be regarded as collectively responsible.
>
> The property of local authorities, as well as that of institutions dedicated to public worship, charity, education, and to science and art, even when State property, shall be treated as private property.
>
> Any seizure or destruction of, or wilful damage to, institutions of this character, historic monuments, and works of science and art, is forbidden, and should be made the subject of legal proceedings.
>
> The High Contracting Parties declare that in cases not covered by the rules adopted by them, the inhabitants and the belligerents remain under the protection and governance of the principles of the law of nations, derived from the usages established among civilised peoples, from the laws of humanity, and the dictates of the public conscience.

Every one of these rules has been broken by the German Army in the present war. These crimes are the more odious because most of them were committed against a small State, of whose neutrality and independence Germany was one of the principal guarantors.

BELGIAN OFFICIAL COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY.

President: M. COOREMAN,
Minister of State, late President of the Chamber of Representatives.

Members:

COUNT GOBLET d'ALVIELLA, Minister of State, Vice-President of the Senate.

RYCKMANS, Senator.

STRAUSS, Alderman of the City of Antwerp.

VAN CUTSEM, Honorary President of the Tribunal of 1st Instance of Antwerp.

Secretaries:

Messrs. The CHEVALIER ERNST de BUNSWYCK, Chief of the Cabinet of the Minister of Justice.

ORTS, Legation Councillor of His Majesty, the King of the Belgians.

The Commission has appointed a Committee instructed to make an enquiry in London among the numerous Belgian refugees in England. This delegation consists of—

SIR MACKENZIE CHALMERS, K.C.B., late Assistant Secretary of State for the Home Department. late Member of the Indian Council, Chairman.

Messrs. de CARTIER de MARCHIENNE, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the King of the Belgians.

HENRI LAFONTAINE, Senator.

HENRI DAVIGNON, Doctor-of-Law, Secretary.

From Their Own Mouths.

Terrible Admissions by German Soldiers.

A lurid light was thrown upon the attitude of the German soldiery to the population of the districts through which they passed, in a brochure compiled by M. Joseph Bédier, Professor at the Collège de France, and published by M. Armand Colin for a Committee of Professors at the University of Paris and the Collège de France, members of the French Academy, and others. The special importance of the pamphlet was that it contained fac-similes of memoranda taken from German soldiers, and that no statement is made in it that is not taken from original sources, placed in nearly every case before the reader.

Each German soldier is recommended by Art. 75 of the Army regulations to keep a journal, and it is from such writings that much of M. Bédier's information is taken.

Paul Spielmann, of the 1st Company Ersatz Battalion of the 1st Guard Infantry Brigade, describing an incident near the village of Blament, wrote as follows:—

"The inhabitants fled through the village. It was horrible. There was blood on every house, and the faces of the dead were hideous. They were quickly buried to the number of Sixty. Among them were many old women and men, and one woman with a child, the whole terrible to see. Three children lay dead together. The altar and arches of the church were down. It was because they had telephoned to the enemy. . . . .Everything is given up to pillage, and I have seen one mother with two children, one having a large wound on the head and one eye lost."

M. Bédier's comment on this incident is that by the Hague Convention of 1907 it was agreed that no collective punishment, pecuniary or other, could be visited upon inhabitants because of acts of individuals, unless they could be considered collectively responsible.

French regular troops blew up the bridge at Creil, but a soldier of the 32nd reserve infantry wrote:—"They blew up the iron bridge, and on this ground the streets were burned by us and civilians shot."

A soldier named Hoesemer belonging to the 8th Corps wrote on September 3rd at Sommepy (Marne):—"Horrible carnage, the village burned to the ground, the French thrown into the burning houses, civilians and all burned together."

An anonymous Saxon officer (178th Regiment, 12th Corps, 1st Saxon) wrote on August 26th:—"The charming village of Gue-d'Hossus (Ardennes) was given to the flames, though, as it appears to me, innocent. I was informed that a cyclist fell from his machine, and in falling his rifle went off, whereupon there was firing in his direction. The male inhabitants were thrown into the flames. We must hope that such atrocities will not be repeated." The same officer described an incident at Villers-en-Fagne (Belgian Ardennes) where dead and wounded grenadiers of the guard were found, and he had seen "the curé and other inhabitants shot."

He also gave an account of horrible outrages at Bouvignes, north of Dinant, where the soldiers destroyed everything like vandals. A soldier named Philipp, belonging to the 1st battalion 178th regiment, described the same or a similar incident.

"At the entrance to the village lay about fifty inhabitants, shot for having in ambush fired on our troops. During the night many others were shot, so that we could count more than 200. Women and children, lamp in hand, were compelled to be present at this shocking spectacle. Then we ate our rice amid the corpses, for we had eaten nothing since the morning."

M. Bédier gives a rigorous and cruel proclamation of General von Bülow and Marshal von der Goltz. Here is a note by a soldier of the 11th Pioneers at Langeviller, August 22nd. "Three women hung on trees, the first dead I had seen." At the end of the same soldier's journal is the following:—"In this way we had destroyed eight houses with their inhabitants. In one of them two men with their wives, and a girl of 18, were bayoneted. The girl made me sad, she looked so innocent, but we could not hold back the excited crowd, for they were not men but beasts." ("Keine Menschen, sondernn Tiere.")

M. Bédier gives many instances of the ruthless burning of villages and houses, and the theft and distribution of money and valuables, even the Saxon officer confessing that he appropriated a fine weather-proof coat and "a camera for Felix." One soldier of the 65th Landwehr Infantry wrote of some of his comrades:—"They did not behave like soldiers, but like common thieves, bandits, and brigands, and are a disgrace to our regiment and our army. A Second Lieutenant of the 77th Reserve Infantry wrote:—"No discipline . . . the Pioneers are not to be trusted, and the Artillery are a set of thieves." (eine Räuberbande.)

There was a soldier named Moritz Grosse, 177th Infantry, who described his day in this fashion:—"Throwing fire grenades into the houses (in the sack of Saint Vieth), and in the evening military choral song, 'Nun danket alle Gott.'" Outrage and piety thus went together.

M. Bédier also gives the brutal order of General Stenger, commanding the 58th German Brigade, August 26th:—"From to-day no more prisoners will be taken. All prisoners will be cut down (niedergemacht); the wounded, with or without arms, cut down; also prisoners grouped in large close formation will be cut down. No enemy will remain behind us. (Es bleibe kein Feind lebend hinter uns.)" M. Bédier has questioned prisoners of General Stenger's regiments, under oath, and they have said that this order was transmitted to them on the date given by Major Mosebach, Lieutenant Curtius, and others. Most of them did not know whether the order had been executed, but three said it was before their eyes in front of Thiaville. Unfortunately M. Bédier could not reproduce General Stenger's autograph.

The last important paper included in M. Bédier's pamphlet is a long extract, with facsimile from the "Jauersches Tageblatt" (Jauer is a Silesian village) which printed an account of proceedings of which no soldier could be other than ashamed, under the title of "A Day of Honour for our Regiment, 24th September, 1914." the writer being a soldier named Klemt, of the 154th Infantry. This regiment suffered heavily in action from fire directed from trees above them. Because the French soldiers had thus posted themselves, they were treated with the utmost brutality, the wounded being shot, bayoneted, or killed with the butts of their own muskets.

How the Germans Behaved in Belgium.

August 25th, 1914. 3.15 p.m.

The Belgian Minister in London has made the following statement:—

"In spite of solemn assurances of good will and long standing treaty obligations, Germany has made a sudden savage and utterly unwarranted attack on Belgium.

"However sorely pressed she may be, Belgium will never fight unfairly and never stoop to infringe the laws and customs of legitimate warfare. She is putting up a brave fight against overwhelming odds, she may be beaten, she may be crushed, but, to quote our noble King's words, 'she will never be enslaved.'

"When German troops invaded our country, the Belgian Government issued public statements which were placarded in every town, village, and hamlet, warning all civilians to abstain scrupulously from hostile acts against the enemy's troops. The Belgian press daily published similar notices broadcast through the land. Nevertheless, the German authorities have issued lately statements containing grave imputations against the attitude of the Belgian civilian population, threatening us at the same time with dire reprisals. These imputations are contrary to the real facts of the case, and, as to threats of further vengeance, no menace of odious reprisals on the part of the German troops will deter the Belgian Government from protesting before the civilised world against the fearful and atrocious crimes committed wilfully and deliberately by the invading hosts against helpless non-combatants, old men, women and children.

"Long is the list of outrages committed by the German troops and appalling the details of atrocities, as vouched for by the Committee of Inquiry recently formed by the Belgian Minister of Justice and presided over by him. This committee comprises the highest judicial and university authorities of Belgium; such as Chief Justice Van Iseghem, Judge Nys, Professors Cottier, Wodon, &c."

MURDER OF PEASANTS.

The following instances and particulars have been established by careful investigations, based in each case on the evidence of reliable eyewitnesses:—

"German cavalry occupying the village of Linsmeau were attacked by some Belgian infantry and two gendarmes. A German officer was killed by our troops during the fight and subsequently buried at the request of the Belgian officer in command. No one of the civilian population took part in the fighting at Linsmeau. Nevertheless the village was invaded at dusk on August 10th by a strong force of German cavalry, artillery, and machine guns. In spite of the formal assurances given by the Burgomaster of Linsmeau that none of the peasants had taken part in the previous fight, two farms and six outlying houses were destroyed by gun fire and burnt. All the male inhabitants were then compelled to come forward and hand over whatever arms they possessed. No recently discharged firearms were found. Nevertheless, the invaders divided these peasants into three groups; those in one group were bound and 11 of them placed in a ditch, where they were afterwards found dead, their skulls fractured by the butts of German rifles.

"During the night of August 10th, German cavalry entered Velm in great numbers. The inhabitants were asleep. The Germans, without provocation, fired on M. Deglimme-Gevers' house, broke into it, destroyed furniture, looted money, burnt barns, hay and corn stacks, farm implements, six oxen, and the contents of the farmyard. They carried off Mrs. Deglimme, half naked, to a place 2 miles away. She was then let go, and was fired upon as she fled, without being hit. Her husband was carried away in another direction and fired upon. He is dying. The same troops sacked and burned the house of a railway watchman.

"Farmer Jef Dierick, of Neerhespen, bears witness to the following acts of cruelty committed by German cavalry at Orsmael and Neerhespen on August 10th, 11th, and 12th:—

"An old man of the latter village had his arm sliced in three longitudinal cuts; he was then hanged head downwards and burned alive. Young girls have been raped, and little children outraged at Orsmael, where several inhabitants suffered mutilations too horrible to describe. A Belgian soldier belonging to a battalion of cyclist carabiniers, who had been wounded and made prisoner, was hanged, whilst another, who was tending his comrade, was bound to a telegraph pole on the St. Trond road and shot.

"On Wednesday, August 12th, after an engagement at Haelen, Commandant Van Damme, so severely wounded that he was lying prone on his back, was finally murdered by German infantrymen firing their revolvers into his mouth.

"On Monday, August 9th, at Orsmael, the Germans picked up Commandant Knapen, very seriously wounded, propped him up against a tree and shot him. Finally they hacked his corpse with swords.

"In different places, notably, at Hollogne sur Geer, Barchon, Pontisse, Haelen, and Zelck, German troops have fired on doctors, ambulance bearers, ambulances, and ambulance wagons carrying the Red Cross.

"At Boncelles a body of German troops marched into battle carrying a Belgian flag.

"On Thursday, August 6th, before a fort at Liège, German soldiers continued to fire on a party of Belgian soldiers (who were unarmed, and had been surrounded while digging a trench) after these had hoisted the white flag.

"On the same day, at Vottem, near the fort of Loncin, a group of German infantry hoisted the white flag. When Belgian soldiers approached to take them prisoners the Germans suddenly opened fire on them at close range.

HORRORS AT AERSCHOT.

"Harrowing reports of German savagery at Aerschot have reached the Belgian Government at Antwerp from official local sources. Thus on Tuesday, August 18th, the Belgian troops occupying a position in front of Aerschot, received orders to retire without engaging the enemy. A small force was left behind to cover the retreat. This force resisted valiantly against overwhelming German forces, and inflicted serious losses on them. Meanwhile, practically the whole civilian population of Aerschot, terrorised by the atrocities committed by the Germans in the neighbouring villages, had fled from the town.

"Next day, Wednesday, August 19th, German troops entered Aerschot, without a shot having been fired from the town and without any resistance whatever having been made. The few inhabitants that remained had closed their doors and windows in compliance with the general orders issued by the Belgian Government. Nevertheless, the Germans broke into the houses and told the inhabitants to quit.

"In one single street the first six male inhabitants who crossed their thresholds were seized and shot at once, under the very eyes of their wives and children.

"The German troops then retired for the day, only to return in greater numbers on the next day, Thursday, August 20th.

"They then compelled the inhabitants to leave their houses and marched them to a place 200 yards from the town. There, without more ado, they shot M. Thielemans, the Burgomaster, his 15-year-old son, the clerk of the local judicial board, and 10 prominent citizens. They then set fire to the town and destroyed it."

The following statement was made by Commandant Georges Gilson, of the 9th Infantry of the Line, now lying in hospital at Antwerp:—

"I was told to cover the retreat of our troops in front of Aerschot. During the action fought there on Wednesday, August 19th, between 6 and 8 o'clock in the morning, suddenly I saw on the high road, between the German and Belgian forces, which were fighting at close range, a group of four women, with babies in their arms, and two little girls clinging to their skirts. Our men stopped firing till the women got through our lines, but the German machine guns went on firing all the time, and one of the women was wounded in the arm. These women could not have got through the neighbouring German lines and been on the high road unless with the consent of the enemy."

"All the evidence and circumstances seem to point to the fact that those women had been deliberately pushed forward by the Germans to act as a shield for their advance guard, and in the hope that the Belgians would cease firing for fear of killing the women and children."

This statement was made and duly certified in the Antwerp hospital on August 22nd by Commandant Gilson in the presence of the Chevalier Ernst N. Bunswyck, Chief Secretary to the Belgian Minister of Justice, and M. de Cartier de Marchienne, Belgian Minister to China.

SECOND REPORT.

"FRIGHTFULNESS" IN LOUVAIN.

ANTWERP, August 31st, 1914.

The Commission of Inquiry have the honour to make the following report on acts of which the town of Louvain, the neighbourhood, and the district of Malines have been the scene:—

The German army entered Louvain on Wednesday, 19th August, after having burnt down the villages through which it had passed.

As soon as they had entered the town of Louvain, the Germans requisitioned food and lodging for their troops. They went to all the banks of the town, and took possession of the cash in hand. German soldiers burst open the doors of houses which had been abandoned by their inhabitants, pillaged them and committed other excesses.

The German authorities took as hostages the Mayor of the City, Senator Van der Kelen, the Vice-Rector of the Catholic University, and the Senior Priest of the City, besides certain Magistrates and Aldermen. All the weapons possessed by the inhabitants, even fencing swords, had already been given up to the Municipal authorities, and placed by them in the Church of Saint Pierre.

In the neighbouring village, Corbeck-Loo, on Wednesday, 19th August, a young woman, aged 22, whose husband was with the army, and some of her relations were surprised by a band of German soldiers. The persons who were with her were locked up in a deserted house, while she herself was dragged into another cottage, where she was raped by five soldiers successively.

In the same village, on Thursday, 20th August, German soldiers fetched from their house a young girl, about 16 years old, and her parents. They conducted them to a small deserted country house, and while some of them held back the father and mother, others entered the house, and finding the cellar open, forced the girl to drink. They then brought her on to the lawn in front of the house, and raped her successively. Finally they stabbed her in the breast with their bayonets. When this young girl had been abandoned by them after these abominable deeds, she was brought back to her parents'

house, and the following day, in view of the gravity of her condition, she received extreme Unction from the parish priest, and was taken to the hospital of Louvain, as her life was despaired of.

On the 24th and 25th of August Belgian troops made a sortie from the entrenched camp of Antwerp, and attacked the German army before Malines. The Germans were thrown back on Louvain and Vilvorde.

On entering the villages which had been occupied by the enemy, the Belgian army found them devastated. The Germans, as they retired, had pillaged and burnt the villages, taking with them the male inhabitants, whom they forced to march in front of them.

Belgian soldiers entering Hofstade, on 25th August, found the body of an old woman who had been killed by bayonet thrusts. She still held in her hand the needle with which she was sewing when she was killed. A woman and her 15 or 16-year old son lay on the ground, pierced by bayonets. A man had been hanged.

At Sempst, a neighbouring village, were found the bodies of two men, partially carbonised. One of them had his legs cut off at the knees; the other had the arms and legs cut off. A workman, whose burnt body has been seen by several witnesses, had been struck several times with bayonets, and then, while still alive, the Germans had poured petroleum over him, and thrown him into a house to which they set fire. A woman who came out of her house was killed in the same way.

A witness, whose evidence has been taken by a reliable British subject, declares that he saw on the 26th August, not far from Malines, during the last Belgian attack, an old man tied by the arms to one of the rafters in the ceiling of his farm. The body was completely carbonised; but the head, arms and feet were unburnt. Further on, a child of about 15 was tied up, the hands behind the back, and the body was completely torn open with bayonet wounds. Numerous corpses of peasants lay on the ground in positions of supplication, their arms lifted and their hands clasped.

The Belgian Consul in Uganda, who is now a volunteer in the Belgian army, reports that wherever the Germans passed, the country has been devastated. The few inhabitants who remain in the villages tell of the atrocities committed by the enemy. Thus, at Wackerzeel, seven Germans are said to have successively violated a woman, and then to have killed her. In the same village they stripped a young boy to the waist, threatened him with death, holding a revolver to his chest, pricked him with lances, and then chased him into a field and shot at him, without, however, hitting him.

Everywhere there is ruin and devastation. At Buecken many inhabitants were killed, including the priest, who was over eighty years old.

Between Impde and Wolverthem two wounded Belgian soldiers lay near a house which was on fire. The Germans threw these two unfortunate men into the flames.

INCENDIARISM AND ATROCITY.

At nightfall on the 26th August the German troops, repulsed by our soldiers, entered Louvain panic-struck. Several witnesses affirm that the German garrison which occupied Louvain was erroneously informed that the enemy were entering the town. Men of the garrison immediately marched to the station, shooting haphazard the while, and there met the German troops who had been repulsed by the Belgians, the latter having just ceased the pursuit. Everything tends to prove that the German regiments fired on one another. At once the Germans began bombarding the town, pretending that civilians had fired on the troops, a suggestion which is contradicted by all the witnesses, and could scarcely have been possible, because the inhabitants of Louvain had had to give up their arms to the Municipal authorities several days before. The bombardment lasted till about 10 o'clock at night. The Germans then set fire to the town. Wherever the fire had not spread the German soldiers entered the houses and threw fire-grenades, with which some of them seem to be provided. The greater part of the town of Louvain was thus a prey to the flames, particularly the quarters of the upper town, comprising the modern buildings, the ancient Cathedral of St. Pierre, the University Buildings, together with the University Library, its manuscripts and collections, and the Municipal Theatre.

The Commission considers it its duty to insist, in the midst of all these horrors, on the crime committed against civilisation by the deliberate destruction of an academic library which was one of the treasures of Europe.

The corpses of many civilians encumbered the streets and squares. On the road from Tirlemont to Louvain alone a witness counted more than fifty. On the doorsteps of houses could be seen carbonised bodies of inhabitants, who, hiding in their cellars, were driven out by the fire, tried to escape and fell into the flames. The suburbs of Louvain suffered the same fate. We can affirm that the houses in all the districts between Louvain and Malines, and most of the suburbs of Louvain itself, have practically been destroyed.

On Wednesday morning, 26th August, the Germans brought to the Station Squares of Louvain a group of more than 75 persons, including several prominent citizens of the town, amongst whom were Father Coloboet and another Spanish priest, and also an American priest. The men were brutally separated from their wives and children, and after having been subjected to the most abominable treatment by the Germans, who several times threatened to shoot them, they were forced to march to the village of Campenhont in front of the German troops. They were shut up in the church, where they passed the night. About 4 o'clock the next morning a German officer told them they had better go to confession, as they would be shot half an hour later. About half-past four they were liberated. Shortly afterwards they were again arrested by a German brigade, which forced them to march before them in the direction of Malines. In reply to a question of one of the prisoners, a German officer said they were going to give them a taste of the Belgian quickfirers before Antwerp. They were at last released on the Thursday afternoon at the gates of Malines.

It appears from other witnesses that several thousand male inhabitants of Louvain who had escaped the shooting and the fire, were sent to Germany for a purpose which is still unknown to us.

A POIGNANT NARRATIVE.

The fire at Louvain burnt for several days. An eye-witness who left Louvain on 30th August gave the following description of the town at that time:—

"Leaving Weert St. Georges," he says, "I only saw burnt-down villages and half-crazy peasants, who, on meeting anyone, held up their hands as a sign of submission. Before every house, even those burnt down, hung a white flag, and the burnt rags of them could be seen among the ruins.

"At Weert St. Georges I questioned the inhabitants on the causes of the German reprisals, and they affirmed most positively that no inhabitant had fired a shot, that in any case the arms had been previously collected, but that the Germans had taken vengeance on the population because a Belgian soldier belonging to the Gendarmerie had killed an Uhlan.

"The population still remaining in Louvain have taken refuge in the suburb of Héverlé, where they are extremely crowded. They have been cleared out of the town by the troops and the fire.

"The fire started a little beyond the American College, and the town is *entirely* destroyed, except for the Town Hall and the station. Furthermore, the fire was still burning to-day, and the Germans, far from taking any steps to stop it, seemed to feed it with straw, an instance of which I observed in the street adjoining the Town Hall. The Cathedral and the theatre are destroyed and have fallen in, as also the library; in short, the town has the appearance of an ancient ruined city, in the midst of which only a few drunken soldiers move about, carrying bottles of wine and liqueurs, while the officers themselves, seated in arm-chairs round the tables, drink like their men.

"In the streets the swollen bodies of dead horses rot in the sun, and the smell of fire and putrefaction pervades the whole place."

The Commission has not yet been able to obtain information about the fate of the Mayor of Louvain and of the other notables who were taken as hostages.

The Commission is able to draw the following conclusions from the facts which have so far been brought to its notice:—

In this war, the occupation of any place is systematically accompanied and followed, sometimes even preceded, by acts of violence towards the civil population, which acts are contrary both to the usages of war and to the most elementary principles of humanity.

The German procedure is everywhere the same. They advance along a road, shooting inoffensive passers-by—particularly bicyclists—as well as peasants working in the fields.

In the towns or villages where they stop they begin by requisitioning food and drink, which they consume till intoxicated.

Sometimes from the interior of deserted houses they let off their rifles at random, and declare that it was the inhabitants who fired. Then the scenes of fire, murder, and especially pillage, begin, accompanied by acts of deliberate cruelty, without respect to sex or age. Even where they pretend to know the actual person guilty of the acts they allege, they do not content themselves with executing him summarily, but they seize the opportunity to decimate the population, pillage the houses, and then set them on fire.

After a preliminary attack and massacre they shut up the men in the church, and then order the women to return to their houses and to leave their doors open all night.

From several places the male population has been sent to Germany; there to be forced, it appears, to work at the harvest, as in the old days of slavery. There are many cases of the inhabitants being forced to act as guides, and to dig trenches and entrenchments for the Germans. Numerous witnesses assert that during their marches, and even when attacking, the Germans place civilians, men and women, in their front ranks, in order to prevent our soldiers firing. The evidence of Belgian officers and soldiers shows that German detachments do not hesitate to display either the white flag or the Red Cross flag in order to approach our troops with impunity. On the other hand, they fire on our ambulances and maltreat the ambulance men. They maltreat and even kill the wounded. The clergy seem to be particularly chosen as subjects for their brutality. Finally, we have in our possession expanding bullets which had been abandoned by the enemy at Werchter, and we possess doctors' certificates showing that wounds must have been inflicted by bullets of this kind.

The documents and evidence on which these conclusions rest will be published in due course.

THIRD REPORT.

ANTWERP, September, 1914.

The Commission appointed by the Belgian Government to inquire into breaches of the law of nations and the laws and customs of war presented its third report to the Minister of Justice at Antwerp on September 10. It is as follows:—

Of the two reports dated August 28th and 31st, which the Commission has had the honour of addressing to you, the former recounted more particularly the events which occurred at Aerschot and in the neighbouring district, while the latter dealt with the destruction of the town of Louvain by the German troops. In order to complete its report of August 31st, the Commission thinks it its duty to record that after the burning of Louvain the houses which remained standing, the inhabitants of which had been forced to flee, were pillaged under the eyes of German officers. On September 2nd the Germans were seen setting fire to four houses.

Another fact which emphasises the ruthless character of the treatment to which the peaceable population of Louvain was subjected has also been established. On August 28th a crowd of 6,000 to 8,000 persons, men, women, and children, of every age and condition, was conducted under the escort of a detachment of the 162nd Regiment of German infantry to the riding

school of the town, where they spent the whole night. The place of confinement was so small in proportion to the number of the occupants that all had to remain standing, and so great were their sufferings that in the course of this tragic night several women lost their reason and children of tender years died in their mothers' arms.

A *communiqué* from the German Great General Staff, the text of which is published in the *Cologne Gazette* of August 29th, declares that the "chastisement" inflicted upon Louvain was justified by the fact that a battalion of Landwehr, which had been left unsupported in the town in order to guard the communications, had been attacked by the civil population, which was under the impression that the main German army had definitely retired. The same journal has published a narrative purporting to come from a person who was a witness of the occurrence.

The inquiry has established that this statement must be considered false. It is, in fact, ascertained that the people of Louvain, who, moreover, had been disarmed by the Communal Authority, did not provoke the Germans by any act of hostility.

INNOCENT VISE.

Visé was the first Belgian town destroyed in pursuance of the system applied subsequently by the invader to so many other of our cities and villages. It is for this reason that we have been careful to determine what truth there is in the German version according to which the civilian population of Visé took part in the defence of the town or rose against the Germans after the town had been occupied.

Several witnesses now at Antwerp have been heard, notably soldiers belonging to the detachment which disputed with the Germans the passage of the Meuse, north of Liége, and a lady of German nationality, who belongs to the religious community of the Sisters of Notre Dame at Visé.

The result is to prove that the inhabitants took no part whatever in the fighting which took place on August 4th at the ford of Lixhe and at Visé itself.

Moreover, it was only in the night of August 15th-16th that the destruction of the town began, the signal being given by several shots fired on the evening of the 15th. The Germans asserted that the inhabitants had fired upon them, particularly from a house the owner of which gave evidence before the Commission. The Germans discovered no arms in this house, any more than they did in neighbouring buildings, which, nevertheless, were burnt after being pillaged, and the male occupants of which were carried off to Germany.

The evidence has brought to light the improbability of any rising among a disarmed population against a numerous German garrison at a time when the last Belgian troops had for 11 days evacuated the district, and the witnesses have declared that the first shots were fired by intoxicated German infantry soldiers at their own officers. This fact appears not to be exceptional. It is, indeed, notorious that at Maestricht, either by mistake or in consequence of a mutiny, Germans about this same time killed one another during the night at a cavalry camp which they had established at Mesch, close to the Dutch frontier in Limbourg.

It is confirmed that the town of Visé was entirely burnt, with the exception, it appears, of a religious establishment which seems to have been respected, and that several citizens, both of the town and of the village, of Canne were shot.

A large number of places situated in the triangle between Vilvorde, Malines, and Louvain—that is to say, in one of the most populous and, a few days ago, one of the most prosperous regions in Belgium—have been given over to plunder, partially or entirely destroyed by fire, their population dispersed, while the inhabitants were indiscriminately arrested and shot without trial and without apparent reason, the sole object being, it seems, to inspire terror and to compel the migration of the population.

This was notably the case in the communes or hamlets of Sempst, Weerde, Elewyt, Holstade, Wespelaer, Wilsele, Bueken, Eppeghem, Wackerzeele, Rotselaer, Werchter, Thildonck, Boortmeerbeek, Houthem, Tremeloo. In this last village only the church and the presbytery remamined standing. On the few houses which have been spared may be seen the following inscriptions:—"Nicht abbrennen (do not burn), Bitte schonen (please spare), Gute leute nicht plundren (good people do not plunder)." These houses, however, were sacked afterwards.

In all these villages the women who have been unable to escape are exposed to the brutal instincts of the German soldiers.

The district immediately adjoins that Aerschot, the devastation of which was described in an earlier report. It extends at present to the north-west of Brussels, where the important towns of Grimberghen and Wolverthem have been sacked, while south-east of the capital, more than 25 kilometres from the scene of military operations, the town of Vavre, which was unable to furnish the exorbitant war levy of 3,000.000 f. (£120.000) imposed by the General Staff of the enemy, has seen 56 of its houses destroyed by fire.

BOMBARDING UNDEFENDED TOWNS.

We must also record that on September 4th and 5th bombs were hurled from an aeroplane upon Ghent and Eecloo, which are open and undefended towns.

Finally, you are aware, M. le Ministre, that the town of Malines, after it had been completely evacuated by Belgian troops on August 27th, was subjected for several days to a bombardment which has seriously damaged the cathedral church of St. Rombaut, the pride of this ancient city. The town of Heyst-op-den-Berg was also bombarded without mercy, though there was no strategic interest to warrant such an act.

The Germans, in order to excuse their violence, declare that wherever they have shot civilians or burnt and pillaged towns and villages, armed resistance has been offered by the inhabitants. While there may possibly have been isolated instances of this kind, that is nothing more than occurs in all wars, and if they had confined themselves to executing the guilty persons we could only have bowed before the rigour of military law. But in no case could individual and absolutely exceptional acts of aggression justify the wholesale measures of repression which have been adopted against the persons and the property of the inhabitants of our towns and villages—the shooting, the burning, the pillaging which has proceeded pretty well everywhere in our country, not only by way of reprisals but with a refinement of cruelty. Moreover, no provocation has been proved at Visé, Marsage, Louvain, Wavre, Termonde, and other places which have been entirely and deliberately destroyed several days after being occupied, not to mention the systematic burning of isolated buildings situated in the line of march of the troops, and the shooting of the unfortunate inhabitants who fled.

GERMAN FALSEHOODS.

The Germans have asserted in their newspapers that the Belgian Government distributed to the civil population arms which were to be used against the invaders. They add that the Catholic clergy preached a sort of holy war and incited their flock everywhere to massacre the Germans. Finally, they have declared, in order to justify the massacres of women, that women showed themselves as ferocious as the men, and went so far as to pour boiling oil from their windows upon the troops on the march.

All these allegations are so many falsehoods. Far from having distributed arms, the authorities everywhere on the approach of the enemy disarmed the inhabitants. The Burgomasters everywhere warned the townspeople against acts of violence, which would involve reprisals. The clergy have unceasingly preached calm to their flock. As for the women, if we except a story in a foreign newspaper, the source of which is suspected, everything shows that their only anxiety was to escape the horrors of a ruthless war.

The true motives for the atrocities the moving evidence of which we have gathered can only be, on the one hand, the desire to terrorize and demoralize the people in accordance with the inhuman theories of German military writers, and, on the other hand, the desire for plunder. A shot fired, no one knows where, or by whom, or against whom, by a drunken soldier, or an excited sentry, is enough to furnish a pretext for the sack of a whole city. Individual plunder is succeeded by war levies of a magnitude which it is impossible to satisfy and by the taking of hostages who will be shot or kept in confinement until payment of the ransom in full, according to the well-known procedure of classic brigandage. It must also be stated that in order to establish the German case, all resistance offered by detachments of the Regular army is laid to the account of the civilian population, and that the invader invariably avenges himself upon the civilians for the checks or even the disappointments which he suffers in the course of the campaign.

In the course of this inquiry we use only facts supported by trustworthy evidence. It should be noted that up to the present we have been able to record only a small part of the crimes committed against law, humanity, and civilization, which will constitute one of the most sinister and most revolting pages in contemporary history. If an international inquiry, like that which was conducted in the Balkans by the Carnegie Commission, could be conducted in our country, we are convinced that it would establish the truth of our assertions.

FOURTH REPORT.

DETAILS OF THE ATROCITIES IN AERSCHOT.

ANTWERP, September 17th, 1914.

As soon as the German troops evacuated the town of Aerschot, the Commission of Enquiry delegated one of its members, M. Orts, *Counsellor of Legation*, to examine personally the condition in which the town was left. M. Orts sent us the following report:—

According to the wishes of the Commission of Enquiry, I went to Aerschot, on September 11th.

During the general offensive movement which brought them towards Louvain, our troops had only crossed the town without stopping in it, the public services had not yet been reorganised, and the inhabitants had not yet returned to their homes, so that, when I arrived, I found Aerschot exactly in the state in which it had been left by the German Army, when it retired thirty hours before. As far as I have been able to judge from personal observation, the testimonies collected by the Commission describe very accurately the state of the town.

Coming from Lierre, one approaches the bridge over the Demer, where the road is lined on both sides with houses belonging to small farmers and market gardeners. All these buildings, without exception, have been burnt down. The out-houses, stables, sheepfolds, smithies, fowl-houses—nothing has been spared, and it is clear that the work of destruction has been accelerated by the use of inflammable matter, as the fire has spread close to the ground, destroying cultivation, garden, hedges and fruit trees within a radius of twenty to thirty yards around the buildings. The first houses beyond the bridge are likewise destroyed. Besides, their fronts bear innumerable traces of bullets; on August 19th, when the Belgian army retreated on Antwerp, this spot was the scene of a violent rear-guard fight.

The road of Lierre then turns to the right and one enters the town by a winding street which leads to the Market Place. For the whole length of this street, *i.e.*, for a distance of about 500 yards, all the houses have been burnt. The fire spread into the side streets which lead to it right and left, so that, on that side of the town, a whole quarter has been destroyed. All that remains of the houses caught by the flames are the four walls between which the fallen roofs and floors form a heap of burnt wreckage, from which emerge a few objects in iron or other metal, blackened by the fire.

As we went up this street in the ranks of an infantry column, walls and gables were crumbling at every moment, under the action of the strong wind which was blowing yesterday, each time causing a dull sound and raising a cloud of dust. The confused tangle of loose telephone wires, the rubbish scattered on the ground, the broken glass grating under the boots, completed the impression of devastation.

The Grand Place has suffered less. The "Gilden Huis" and the three houses close to that of the burgomaster Tielemans have been burnt. The latter is still standing and its front, like that of most other buildings in the square, bears the traces of the firing which broke out on the evening of August 19th, on account, as reported at Aerschot, of a panic raised by drunken soldiers.

The church presents a lamentable aspect. Its three doors, as well as that of the sacristy, have been more or less consumed. The door of the nave and side door on the right, both of massive oak, seem to have been forced in by a battering ram after the flames had weakened them. In the interior, the altars, confessionals, harmoniums and candelabra are broken, the collection boxes are forced open, the wooden Gothic statues which decorated the columns of the nave have been torn down, others have been partially destroyed by fire. The floor was littered with hay on which a great number of inhabitants—who were (as we know) shut up in the church—have slept for many days.

WHERE THE BURGOMASTER WAS SLAIN.

In the rest of the town through which we passed quickly, a few burnt houses could be seen here and there. They are more numerous along the Louvain road, where we saw from time to time the charred remains of groups of two, three, and sometimes as much as five dwellings. Following this road for a distance of several miles towards Gelrode, I noticed isolated ruins of cottages and villas, at the foot of the hill.

It is there, on the outskirts of the town, in a field a hundred yards to the left of the road, that the Germans shot burgomaster Tielemans, his son, his brother, and a whole group of their fellow citizens.

After some searching I found at the foot of a bank the spot where fell these innocent victims of German fury. Black clots of blood still marked, on the stubble, the place occupied by each of them under the fire of the executioners. These blood stains are two yards distant from each other, which confirms the testimony of the witnesses according to which, at the last moment, the executioners took from the ranks two out of every three men; chance, in default of any sort of inquiry, pointing out those who had to die.

A few steps from there the newly-turned earth and a humble wooden cross, raised secretly by friendly hands, mark the spot where the bodies of 27 victims rest. The pit partially filled seemed to wait for more dead.

I saw, near the church, other tombs of civilians killed during the German occupation, but in this town, deserted by its inhabitants, it was difficult to find witnesses of the events, so that I was unable to determine exactly the number of people in Aerschot who perished by German bullets.

The town was, indeed, almost empty. The principal street was alone animated by the continual passage of marching troops. In the by-streets one could see from time to time a few families grouped on the threshold of their wrecked homes.

In Aerschot, as everywhere, many assaults on women and girls have taken place; but on this particular point any inquiries met with great difficulties, as the victims pointed out by public rumour and their relatives generally oppose complete silence to any question put to them.

The description of the burnt quarters can only give a faint impression of the devastation wrought in this unhappy town, for, if Aerschot has specially suffered from fire, *I was able to verify that it has been completely sacked.*

I entered several houses, chosen haphazard, and I went through their various landings; through the windows and the broken doors, I glanced into a number of other dwellings. Everywhere the furniture is overturned, torn and soiled in the vilest manner; the wallpaper hangs in rags from the walls, the doors of cellars are broken open, all locks have been forced open, all cupboards and drawers emptied, linen and the most incongruous objects scattered on the floors, together with an incredible number of empty bottles.

SIGNS OF DEBAUCHERY.

In the houses of the well-to-do the pictures have been slashed, the works of art broken. On the door of one of them, a large, fine building belonging to Dr. ——, one could still read, though partly effaced, the following inscription traced in chalk; *Bitte deses Haus zu schonen da wirklich friedliche gute Leute. . .* (S) *Bannach Wachtmeister.* I entered the house, which was said to have been occupied by officers, and which the solicitude of one of them seemed to have saved from the general ruin. On reaching the threshold a smell of spilt wine drew our attention to hundreds of empty and broken bottles which filled the hall, the staircase and even the yard opening on the garden.. The rooms were in indescribable disorder. I walked on a bed of torn clothes, of pieces of wool torn from open mattresses, everywhere open chests, and in every room, by the bed, still more empty bottles. The drawing-room was full of them, dozen of wine glasses covered the table and sideboards, by which stood tattered armchairs and sofas, whilst in a corner a piano, with stained keyboard, seemed to have been smashed by boots. All showed that the place had been, during many days and nights, the scene of the vilest debauches and drinking bouts. In the market place, the house of the notary . . . . offered a similar spectacle and, according to what a sergeant of gendarmes—who attempted with his men to restore some order to this chaos—told me, the same description applies to most of the houses belonging to good families, in which the German officers made their abode.

The total ruin which has overtaken the laborious and peaceful population of Aerschot is much more due to an organised pillage than to fire which spared certain quarters of the town.

During three weeks the soldiers gradually plundered almost all the houses, destroying everywhere the objects which failed to satisfy their greed, while the officers kept for themselves the houses of the wealthy. All the valuables which the owner had not the time to put in safety, plate, family jewels, and money, have disappeared, and the people declare that the fires had often no other object than to hide the traces of some particularly important theft. Full wagon loads of booty left Aerschot in the direction of the Meuse.

As for the cause of the calamity which befell this defenceless town it originated, according to the German military authorities, in the murder of an officer by a civilian whom they name, and who was immediately shot. This fact remains however to be proved, as it has not been possible to find anyone in Aerschot who admits the culpability of Tieleman's son. It is enough to bear in mind at present that, by the invaders' own admission, Aerschot's destruction has been the result of a deliberate decision. In the eyes of the German commander, the massacre of an indeterminate number of innocent people, the transportation of several hundred others, the savage treatment inflicted on old men, women and children, the ruin of so many families, the burning and sacking of a town of 8,000 souls constitute justifiable reprisals for the act of a single individual.

FIFTH REPORT.

STATEMENT BY A BURGOMASTER'S WIDOW.

October 9th, 1914.

The Belgian Army issuing from the entrenched camp of Antwerp drove back, towards the south, the German troops from September 10th to September 14th. After reoccupying Malines, Aerschot and Diest, it advanced to the outskirts of Tirlemont and Louvain, pushing the enemy as far back as Werchter and Vilvorde. These military operations allowed many witnesses from the invaded part of our territory to reach Antwerp.

On the other hand, one of the secretaries, Mr. Orts, was able to verify personally, immediately after the expulsion of the German troops the ravages committed in the town of Aerschot. The report which he has drawn up for us was communicated to you on September 17th. The report will have enlightened you, Sir, concerning the excesses committed by the German troops. These excesses lasted during the whole time of the occupation, and were due as much to the regular army as to the Landsturm which took its place towards the end of August. The murders, looting, rapes, attacks on persons and their goods ceased only when the Belgian forces entered Aerschot.

Besides, the Landsturm has not even respected, in the churches and religious establishments, the altars which had hitherto been spared; for instance, in the Saint Joseph College and on the Chapel of the Picpus Institute.

A Belgian soldier, a volunteer, N——, in the 6th Regiment of the Line, has told us the shameful treatment which many Belgian wounded and prisoners have been submitted to at Aerschot. Wounded in the right arm, he had been captured by the Germans on August 18th in the morning. He was brought with 27 other prisoners by the road along the Demer. Two German companies were placed there. All the prisoners were driven before them and shot. Those, who, in order to escape their bullets, jumped in the Demer, were shot in the river. At the first firing the witness threw himself on the ground simulating death. A German soldier came close to him, and noticing that he was alive, prepared to shoot him. An officer interfered, saying that the man was not worth the bullet, and ordered him to be thrown into the Demer. The witness succeeded in getting hold of the branches of a bush on the bank. Steadying himself on the stones at the bottom of the river, he spent the whole night in the water, his head only emerging. On the morrow he succeeded in getting back unperceived, entered a deserted house through the garden, put on civilian clothes, and joining a group of refugees escaped from the town. Out of the 28 prisoners, he and another man were the only survivors.

The pretext given by the Germans to justify their crimes is that they are reprisals for the murder of one of their Generals by the son of the Burgomaster of Aerschot. Our report of August 28th has already shown the extreme improbability of this version. The corroborative evidence of the inhabitants of Aerschot which we have examined establishes that the bullet which killed this officer came from the German troops firing in the town.

A WIDOW'S TERRIBLE EXPERIENCES.

With reference to this occurrence we deem it necessary to reproduce a letter which we have received from Madame Tielemans, the widow of the unfortunate Burgomaster. This document exposes the events as they happened in her presence. The facts happened as follows:—

"About four o'clock in the afternoon, my husband was distributing some cigars to the soldiers, standing outside our door. I was with him. Seeing that the general and his aides-de-camp were watching us from the balcony, I advised him to come in. At this moment, looking towards the Grand Place, where more than 2,000 soldiers were encamped, I saw distinctly two puffs of smoke. Firing followed. The Germans were firing towards the houses and breaking into them. My husband, my children, the servants and myself had just time to rush to the stairs leading to the cellars. The Germans were even firing in the halls of the houses. After a few minutes of great anxiety, one of the General's aides-de-camp came down, saying:—

"'The General is dead; where is the Burgomaster?' My husband said to me 'This will be serious for me.' As he was stepping forward, I said to the aide-de-camp: 'You may see, Sir, that my husband did not fire.' 'Never mind,' he answered, 'he is responsible.' My husband was taken away. My son, who was at my side, led us to another cellar. The same aide-de-camp then came back and took him away from me, kicking him along. The poor boy could scarcely walk. During the morning, while entering the town, the

Germans had fired into the windows of the houses; a bullet had entered the room where my son was and had wounded him in the leg. After they had taken my son and my husband from me, the Germans led me through the whole house, levelling their revolvers at my head. I was made to look at the dead body of their General; then they threw me, with my daughter out of the house, without a coat or anything on. They left us on the Grand Place. We were surrounded by a line of soldiers and had to see our dear town burn before our eyes. There, in the sinister light of the fire, I saw for the last time, towards one o'clock in the morning, father and son bound together. Followed by my brother-in-law, they were being brought to their death.

"These evil people have taken from me all that I loved, and now they are endeavouring to stain the honour of a name of which I am proud. No, Sir, I cannot let this lie go unanswered. Upon my honour, I assure you that we had not a weapon left in the house.

"A price has been put upon my head. I have been obliged to flee from village to village. Was it not done to get rid of a troublesome witness?"

UNBURIED DEAD; NEGLECTED WOUNDED.

From numerous testimonies we are able to state that in many country places around Aerschot, Diest, Malines and Louvain, the disaster is still greater than in Aerschot. Whole villages have been wiped out. Their inhabitants who have taken refuge in the woods are without shelter, without food. In the ditches along the roads the dead bodies of peasants, women and children murdered by Germans are left unburied. Many corpses have been thrown into the wells, contaminating the water.

Wounded, without any distinction of age or sex, have been abandoned, without any attempt being made to relieve their sufferings. A doctor attached to an ambulance, at Malines, described to us the horrible state in which he found these poor people left without treatment during several days. For instance, a man of about 30 years of age sought refuge with his family in a manure pit which he had previously emptied. When the Germans came they lifted the plank covering the pit and fired in it. The man was very badly wounded. He was left five days without being attended to. His leg was in a complete state of putrefaction, and it had to be amputated.

A great part of the male population were commandeered in the whole region. Most of them were compelled to dig trenches and to build defensive works against our troops, in defiance of the Laws of Warfare. Others frequently were forced to walk in front of the German troops during the fights. A great number of them have not come back. At Aerschot, from August 30th to September 6th, many of these men captured by the German soldiers were shut up in the Church, together with thirty priests. They were left there without other food than some sour bread in very insufficient quantity. According to indications, recorded on the note books of some German prisoners, these men were afterwards sent to Germany.

We read in the note book of the soldier Karl Bertram, of Westeregeln, near Magdeburg:—

"We have shut up 450 men in the Church of Aerschot; I was near the Church at the time."

Another note book, whose owner's name is not mentioned, contains the following statement:—

"On September 6th, we have sent 300 men to Germany, among which were 21 priests."

The sacred vessels which had not been put in safety did not escape profanation. A priest showed us the lower part of a sacred vessel robbed from the Church of Hofstadt. The upper part, in silver, had been stolen; the lower part, copper-gilt, was found on the road. The precious stones which adorned it had been taken from their settings.

It is only at the end of the German occupation that it will be possible to make a full list in every borough and town of the German atrocities.

The particulars gathered by the Commission, in examining directly the witnesses or in instructing magistrates to do so in the uninvaded parts of the country, refer only for the most part to isolated facts. They cannot describe the general situation, each witness having only seen part of the events of which a certain place has been the scene.

Besides, every testimony must be seriously checked. It is only when the facts seem, on account of accumulated evidence, beyond any discussion, that the Commission puts them on record.

NEW FACTS ABOUT LOUVAIN.

We are now able to state the facts which led to the sack of Louvain, and to give a rough estimate of the damage done. Before the Germans entered the town, the Burgomaster, Mr. Collins, had had a poster pasted all over the town urging the population to keep calm. The people were terrorized. Many had left the town. Those who remained were resolved to follow the Burgomaster's advice and to observe a calm and dignified attitude towards the enemy's army.

The German Parliamentaries entered the town, on Wednesday, August 19th, at about two o'clock in the afternoon. They sent the Dean of Louvain on in front of them. As soon as they arrived, the Germans exacted, in the rudest way, huge requisitions of food, amounting to more than £4,000. Numerous troops made a triumphant entry, about half past two. The shouts of the soldiers, and military bands, were loudest when they met wounded or dying Belgian soldiers brought from Bautersen and from the other villages where fighting had taken place. The German soldiers preferred to establish their quarters in private houses, while barracks and public buildings which had been offered to them remained empty. They broke into deserted houses, shattering the doors with hatchets, and then sacked a few of them.

On August 20th, Mr. Van der Kelen, Senator, and Mr. Collins, Burgomaster, were detained as hostages. A great number of placards were posted about the town forbidding, amongst other things, the citizens to go out after eight o'clock in the evening, ordering them, under penalty of death, to bring to the Town Hall all the arms, ammunition and petrol; they were also obliged in certain streets of the town to leave their doors open and their windows lighted throughout the night.

The German authorities, represented by Commander Manteuffel, insisted on the payment of a war indemnity of £4,000. After some parleying, it was reduced to £120. The delinquents of German nationality which were detained in the Louvain prison for ordinary crimes were set at liberty.

On the following days more requisitions were levied, Mgr. Ladeuze, head of the University, Mr. de Bruyn, Vice-President of the Tribunal, M. Van den Eynde, notary and Provincial Councillor, and several other prominent citizens, were taken as hostages. The German authorities entered the private banks and seized the cash in hand. They found £12 at the Banque de la Dyle and £480 at the Banque Populaire.

During the whole of the time the German soldiery had committed numerous outrages on women and young girls in the town of Louvain and in the surrounding villages.

As we have already stated in our report dated August 31st, the German troops before Antwerp were driven by the Belgian army on August 28th as far back as Louvain. Accurate evidence on this occurrence has confirmed our previous conclusions. We may consider it an established fact that some firing took place in different parts of the town between the German troops retreating in disorder from Malines, the small German garrison left in Louvain, and the German troops which had arrived during the afternoon from the direction of Liége. A priest declared to us that he was present at one of these fights between German troops which took place in the Rue des Joyeuses Entrées, and that, after the fighting had ceased he counted in the street alone, 60 dead Germans. No dead civilians were seen amongst them.

AFTER PANIC, ARSON.

Sharp firing took place simultaneously at different points of the town, especially at the Porte de Bruxelles, Porte de Tirlemont, in the Rue Leopold, Rue Marie Thérèse, and in the Rue des Joyeuses Entrées. The German troops were firing in all directions in the deserted streets. It was a real panic, during which the officers had lost all control over their men.

Soon afterwards fires burst out from all parts, particularly at the Halles Universitaires which contained the library and the archives of the University, in the Church of St. Peter's, at the Place du Peuple, in the Rue de la Station, Boulevard de Tirlemont, and Chausse de Tirlemont.

On the orders of their officers, the German soldiers broke into the houses and set fire to them with the help of fuses. They shot at the inhabitants who tried to escape from their houses. Many people, who sought refuge in their cellars were burnt alive. Others were shot as they tried to escape from the burning houses. A great number of inhabitants who had succeeded in getting out of their houses through their back gardens were led to the Place de la Station, where they saw about ten dead civilians lying about. They were then brutally separated from their wives and children and stripped of all they had succeeded in carrying away.

In our report dated August 31st, we have described the physical and moral tortures which were inflicted on a group of seventy-five of them. Others, in great numbers were brought to the station, packed in cattle trucks, and, after a journey of twenty-six hours, during which no food was given to them, arrived at Cologne.

On the day after their arrival in this town, and after a night spent in a showman's shed, where they received only a little water and bread, a great number of them were put into third-class compartments (fifteen in each compartment) and sent back to Brussels, where they arrived in a complete state of exhaustion, on Sunday the 30th. For the first time since their arrest they were able to get sufficient food. They were then brought back to the German outposts before Malines and released. Many have not been heard of since.

Others, especially members of the clergy, with Mgr. Ladeuze, Head of the University, Mgr. de Becker, Head of the American College, were sent from Louvain towards Brussels. Several of them, Father Depierreux, a Jesuit, to name one, were shot on the road. All had to endure severe torture.

The women and children remained without food, on the Place de la Station, during the whole day (August 26th). They witnessed the execution of about 20 of their fellow-citizens, among whom were several priests, who, bound together in groups of four, were shot at one end of the Square, on the footpath in front of the house of Mr. Hamaide. A sham execution of Mgr. Coenraets, Vice-Rector of the University, and of Father Schmidt, a Dominican, took place before them. A volley was fired and the bystanders were compelled to applaud. These women and children were released during the night of August 26th-27th.

A TRAGIC EXODUS.

On Thursday, 27th, at 8 o'clock, order was given to all the inhabitants to leave Louvain; the town was going to be bombarded.

Old men, women, children, sick people, lunatics from the asylums, priests, nuns, were brutally driven like cattle about the roads. We only realise now the atrocities committed during this terrible exodus. These people were driven in different directions by brutal soldiers, forced to kneel and to lift their arms each time they met German soldiers and officers: they were left without food during the day, without shelter during the night.

Many died on the way. Others, among which were women, children and priests, who were unable to follow, were shot dead. More than ten thousand of them were driven as far as Tirlemont, fifteen miles from Louvain. Their sufferings are beyond description. The next day many others were driven further, on from Tirlemont to Saint Trond and Hasselt.

To quote only one example, a group of thirteen priests, among whom were the Curé of Saint Joseph, Mr. Noel, Professor at the University, the Rector of the Scheut Monastery, were stopped on their way in the village of Lovenjoul. They were insulted in every possible way, shut up in a pig-stye from which the pigs had been driven out in their presence by the Germans. Some of them were then forced to strip themselves naked. They were all searched, and all valuables which they possessed were stolen from them. They were also brutalised and beaten. The soldiers were, in fact, so eager to start looting, that they were seen entering the houses before the inhabitants had really time to leave them.

The looting began on August 27th and lasted eight days. By groups of six or eight the soldiers broke into the houses through the doors or the windows, entered the cellars, drank the wine, ransacked the furniture, breaking the safes, stealing all money, pictures, works of art, silver, linen, clothes, wines and provisions.

The notebooks found on German soldiers who were made prisoners at Aerschot contain irrefutable acknowledgment of this.

PILLAGE AND ORGIES.

Gaston Klein, belonging to the 1st Company of the Landsturm, writes, under date August 29th :—

"From Roosbeck we began to see something of the war—burning houses, walls riddled with bullets, the face of the Church clock knocked away by shells, etc., a few isolated crosses showing the graves of the victims of the war. We arrived at Louvain, which was swarming with soldiers. The battalion of Landsturm from Halle came in dragging after it all sorts of things, mostly wine bottles; many were drunk. A group of ten cyclists in search of lodgings rode through the town, which showed a picture of destruction impossible to imagine. Burning and crumbling houses on both sides of the streets—very few remaining standing. Everywhere on the road bits of broken glass, burning wood, etc. The electric tram wires and the telephone wires had fallen in the streets and blocked the way. The houses still standing were full of 'logés.'

"On the return to the station nobody knew what to do. First only a few troops went into the town, but then the battalion entered in close ranks and broke into the first houses in order to loot—I beg pardon—to requisition wine and some other things too. *It was like a pack of hounds let loose; everyone did what he liked. The officers led the way and gave good example.*

"A night in barracks with many drunken men; that was the end of it all. That day has filled me with a contempt which I cannot express."

Another prisoner writes to his wife, Anna Manniget, at Magdeburg :—

"We reached Louvain at 7 in the evening. I was not able to write to you on account of the mournful aspect of Louvain. On all sides the town was burning. What was not burning was being destroyed. We got into the cellars and filled ourselves well."

A great part of the booty packed on military carts was then sent to Germany by train. The burning and the looting did not stop until Wednesday, September 2nd. On this day four more fires were lighted by the German soldiers, one in the Rue Leopold, and three in the Rue Marie Thérèse.

Without counting the Halles Universitaires and the Palais de Justice, 894 houses were burnt within the limits of the town of Louvain and about 500 within those of the suburb of Kessel-Loo. The suburb of Herent and the village of Corbeck-Loo were practically entirely destroyed. On August 25th, while they were setting fire to houses, the Germans wrecked the fire engines and fire escapes; they shot the people who from the roofs were trying to stop the flames. The suburb of Heverle has been spared for reasons which we cannot determine, but which some people assign to the fact that the Duc d'Arenberg, a German subject, has a considerable estate there.

On many houses which were spared in Louvain was fixed a small printed notice bearing the following warning :—

"Dieses Haus darf nicht betreten werden.

"Es ist strengstens verboten Haeuser in Brandt zu

"Setzen ohne Genehmigung der Kommandantur.

"Der Etappen Kommondant."
(Seal.)

Other houses in Heverle which were respected bore merely the name of the village in large letters.

It would be impossible to determine at the present moment the number of victims. On September 8th, 42 dead were taken out of the wreckage.

The Germans in order to justify the atrocities they committed, pretend that civilians fired on their troops. Our former reports have already contradicted this false assertion. The truth is that on all sides, the murder of peaceful citizens, pillage and looting seem to have been methodically organised. A witness, of foreign nationality, has declared to us that he heard, on August 26th, a German officer saying to his troopers that until that moment they had only burnt villages and small places, and that for the first time they were going to witness the burning down of a large town.

Looting is nearly always followed by fires which seem often to be prompted solely by the desire to hide the traces of the looting. The houses are frequently set on fire by fuses; at other times they are sprayed over with petrol or naphtha. Sometimes in order to hasten the action of the fire, the German soldiers use a kind of inflammable tablet of which we possess some samples. According to the analysis which has been made of them, these tablets contain nitro cellulose gelatine.

Looting and burning are ordered by the superior authorities. Part of the booty, apparently the greater part, is sent to Germany.

With reference to this fact, the Commission wishes to draw your attention to the following interesting evidence.

The Superior of a religious house in a country district which had been looted declared that, after the sack of the village, a German soldier had given her the sum of 1.08 fr. (1 franc and 8 centimes), saying that though he was compelled to loot he had no wish to benefit by it, as he was no thief. A German non-commissioned officer also asked her to give back to Miss V. D. a watch, a chain and a gold bracelet which he had taken from her house.

There is only one reason for the outrages to which Belgium has been submitted : the desire to terrorise the population and the insistence in exacting vengeance for a resistance which the German Empire did not expect.

The events have proved this to be true. Each sortie of the Belgian troops from the entrenched camps of Antwerp is followed by renewed excesses which the invader does not even take the trouble to justify. The town of Aerschot is another example of this. The first thing which the Germans did after reoccupying the town on September 10th was to complete their work of destruction.

SIXTH REPORT.

A REPLY TO GERMAN PROFESSORS.

LE HAVRE, November 10th, 1914.

Twenty-two German Universities have sent to foreign Universities a protest against the accusations brought against the German troops. This protest, signed by the Rectors of the Universities of Tübingen, Berlin, Bonn, Breslau, Erlangan, Frankfort, Freiburg, Giessen, Göttingen, Greifswald, Halle, Heidelberg, Jena, Kiel, Königsberg, Leipzig, Marburg, Munich, Munstein, Rostock, Strassburg, and Würzburg, begins as follows :—

"You all, who know that our army is not an army of mercenaries, that it comprises the whole nation from the first to the last man, that it is led by the best of our country's sons, that at this hour thousands of professors and students are falling as officers or soldiers on the battlefields of France or Russia, you who have read and heard the spirit in which and the success with which our youth is instructed and brought up, who know how much we inculcate respect and admiration for the masterpieces of the human brain, whatever the country to which it belongs, we ask you all to be our witnesses and to say if what our enemies report is true, and if it is correct that the German army is a horde of barbarians and a band of incendiaries who take pleasure in killing innocent persons and destroying villages and the monuments of art and history; and if you will respect the truth you will be convinced with us that where the German troops have had to accomplish work of destruction, they acted according to the pitiless laws of defence in war."

The facts are stronger than all arguments. Against the professorial protests of the German Universities, the Commission of Enquiry opposes its reports. There is not one fact mentioned in them, of which it cannot furnish proof.

There are besides documents, the authentic character of which the German Universities would not think of contesting. We refer to the proclamations of the generals of the invading army; the lack of conscience shown in them is no greater than their cruelty.

For the edification of the public conscience, the Commission considers itself bound to publish some of these proclamations. All of them are characterised by a distinctly familiar style.

I. PROCLAMATION DISTRIBUTED ON 4TH AUGUST, 1914.

On Tuesday, 4th August, 1914, towards 10 a.m., the first German soldiers arrived at Warsage (on the road from Aix-la-Chapelle to Visé). It was a small patrol of about 25 troopers, led by an officer. The soldiers distributed among the inhabitants several copies of a printed document, of which the following is the *exact* text :—

"To the Belgian Nation.

"I feel the greatest regret that the German troops finding themselves obliged to cross the frontier of Belgium. They act according to the dictates of inevitable necessity, Belgian neutrality having been already violated, by French officers, who, disguised, crossed Belgian territory in a motor car in order to penetrate into Germany.

"Belgians! It is our greatest wish that means may still be found to avoid war between two peoples which up to the present time have been friends, and formerly even allies. Remember the glorious day of Waterloo, when German arms contributed to found and establish the independence and prosperity of your country.

"But we must have free passage. The destruction of bridges, tunnels and railway lines will have to be regarded as hostile acts.

"Belgians, you have to choose.

"I hope that the army of the Meuse will not be obliged to fight you. A free passage to attack those who wished to attack us is all we ask.

"I give formal guarantees to the Belgian population that it will not have to suffer any of the horrors of war; that we will pay in gold for the food it will be necessary to take in the country; that our soldiers will show themselves the best friends of a people for whom we feel the highest esteem and the greatest sympathy.

"It depends on your wisdom and understanding patriotism to avoid for your country the horrors of war.

"The General Commanding-in-Chief the Army of the Meuse."

"VON EMMICH."

II. PROCLAMATION ISSUED BY THE GENERAL COMMANDING-IN-CHIEF THE 2ND ARMY, VON BULOW.

"To the Belgian Nation.

"We have been obliged to enter into Belgian territory in order to safeguard the interests of our national defence.

"We are fighting the Belgian army solely in order to force a passage into France, which your Government wrongly refused us, although it tolerated a French military reconnaissance, a fact of which yours newspapers have kept you in ignorance.

"The peaceful population of Belgium is not our enemy; quite the contrary, and we will treat them with understanding for their susceptibilities and with kindness, provided that, by their acts they show proof of their peaceful sentiments.

"But we will act severely on any attempt by the population to show resistance to the German troops, or to do injury to our military interests.

"Given at Montjoie, 9th August, 1914.

"The General Commanding-in-Chief the 2nd Army,
"VON BULOW."

III. NOTICE POSTED IN HASSELT ON 17TH AUGUST, 1914.

"Fellow Citizens,

"I, in agreement with the German Higher Military Authorities, have the honour again to request you to abstain from any provocative manifestations, and from all hostile acts which might bring terrible punishment on our City.

"You will above all abstain from all acts of cruelty towards the German troops, and particularly from firing on them.

"*In the case of civilians shooting on the German army, a third of the male inhabitants will be shot.*

"I remind you that the assembling of more than five persons together is strictly forbidden, and that those who break this rule will be arrested on the spot.

"Hasselt, 17th August, 1914.

"The Burgomaster.
"FERD. PORTMANS."

IV.—EXTRACT OF A PROCLAMATION TO THE COMMUNAL AUTHORITIES OF THE TOWN OF LIEGE.

"22nd August, 1914.

"The inhabitants of the town of Andenne, after having protested their peaceful intentions, made a treacherous surprise attack on our troops. (This is denied by the inhabitants.)

"It was with my consent that the General had the whole place burnt down, and about 100 people shot. (In reality more than 200 were shot.)

"I bring this fact to the knowledge of the town of Liége, so that its inhabitants may know the fate with which they are threatened, if they take up a similar attitude.

"The General Commanding-in-Chief,
"VON BULOW."

V.—PROCLAMATION POSTED UP IN NAMUR ON 25th AUGUST, 1914.

"1. The Belgian and French soldiers must be delivered as prisoners of war before 4 o'clock in front of the prison. *Citizens who do not obey will be condemned to hard labour for life in Germany.*
A rigorous inspection of houses will commence at 4 o'clock. Every soldier found will be immediately shot.

"2. Arms, powder, and dynamite must be given up at 4 o'clock. Penalty: being shot.
Citizens who know of a store of the above must inform the Burgomaster, *under pain of hard labour for life.*

"3. Every street will be occupied by a German guard, who will take ten hostages from each street, whom they will keep under surveillance. If there is any rising in the street, *the ten hostages will be shot.*

"4. Doors may not be locked, and at night after eight o'clock there must be lights in three windows in every house.

"5. It is forbidden to be in the street after 8 o'clock. The inhabitants of Namur must understand that there is no greater and more horrible crime than to compromise the existence of the town and the life of its citizens by criminal acts against the German army."

"The Commander of the Town,
"VON BULOW."

"Namur, 25th August, 1914."

"(Printed by Chantraine.)"

VI.—LETTER SENT BY LIEUT.-GEN. VON NIEBER TO THE BURGOMASTER OF WAVRE ON THE 27th AUGUST, 1914.

"On 22nd August, 1914, the General Commanding the 2nd Army, General von Bülow, imposed on the town of Wavre a war-levy of frs. 3,000,000 (£120,000), payable up till 1st September, to expiate the heinous conduct, contrary to the Laws of the Rights of Nations and the Customs of War, which they showed in making a surprise attack on the German troops." (Here, as elsewhere, civilians took no part in the hostilities.)

"The General Commanding the 2nd Army has just ordered the General of the Division of the 2nd Army to collect without delay the said levy, which the town must pay on account of the conduct of its inhabitants.

"I order and summon you to hand over to the bearer of the present the two first instalments, namely two million frs. (£80,000) in gold.

"I also ask that a letter, duly sealed with the town seal, should be given to the bearer, declaring that the balance, frs. 1,000,000 (£40,000), will be paid without default on the 1st September.

"I draw the town's attention to the fact that in no case can it count on the delay being prolonged, for the civil population of the town has put itself beyond the pale of the Rights of Nations by firing on the German troops.

"*The Town of Wavre will be set on fire and destroyed, if the payment is not made when due; without distinction of persons, the innocent will suffer with the guilty.*"

VII.—PROCLAMATION POSTED UP IN GRIVEGNEE ON 8th SEPTEMBER, 1914.

"Commune of Grivegnée.

"VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE.

"Commandant-Major Dieckmann, of Château des Bruyères, requests me to bring the following to the knowledge of the inhabitants:

"Dieckmann's Battalion.
"Château des Bruyères, 6th September, 1914.

"The following persons were present at this conference:—
"(1) M. le Curé Fryns, of Bois-de-Breux; (2) M. le Curé Franssen, of Beyne; (3) M. le Curé Lepropres, of Heusay; (4) M. le Curé Paquay, of Grivegné; (5) The Burgomaster Dejardin, of Beyne; (6) The Burgomaster Hodeige, of Grivegnée; (7) Major Dieckmann; (8) Lieut. d. R. Reil.

"Major Dieckmann informs those present of the following:—

"1. Before 4 o'clock in the afternoon of the 6th inst., all arms, ammunition, explosives, fire-works still in the possession of the inhabitants must be deposited at the Château des Bruyères. Whoever disobeys this order will be liable to be shot. He will be shot on the spot or else executed, unless he can prove that he is not at fault.

"2. All the inhabitants of occupied houses in the localities of Beyne-Heusay, Grivegnée, Bois-de-Breux, Fléron, must return to their houses at nightfall (which is now at 7 p.m., German time). The afore-mentioned houses are to be lighted as long as any one is up. The outer doors must be closed. Anyone who does not obey these directions renders himself liable to be severely punished. *Any resistance to orders will be punished by death.*

"3. The Commandant must not meet with any hindrance during his domiciliary visits. People are requested to show all the rooms of the house without being ordered to. Anyone who opposes this will be severely punished.

"4. After 9 a.m. on the 7th September, I will permit the houses in Beyne-Heusay, Grivegnée, and Bois-de-Breux to be inhabited by the persons who lived in them formerly, as long as these persons are not forbidden to frequent these localities by official prohibition.

"5. In order that the above-mentioned permit may not be abused, the Burgomasters of Beyne-Heusay and Grivegnée must immediately prepare lists of persons who will be held as hostages for 24 hours each at Fort Fléron. From the 6th September, 1914, at 6 p.m. till the 7th September at midday.
The life of these hostages depends on the population of the above-mentioned Communes remaining quiet in any circumstances.
During the night it is severely forbidden to show any luminous signs. Bicycles are only permitted between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. German time.

"6. From the list which is submitted to me I will designate persons who shall be hostages from mid-day till the following mid-day. If the substitute is not there at the correct time, the hostage must remain another 24 hours at the fort. *After these 24 hours the hostage will incur the penalty of death, if the substitute has not presented himself*

"7. *Priests, Burgomasters and Members of the Administration are to be taken first as hostages.*

"8. *I insist that all the civilians who move in my district, particularly those of Beyne-Heusay, Fléron, Bois-de-Breufi and Grivegnée show their respect to the German officers by taking off their hats, or lifting their hands to their heads in military salute. In case of doubt, every German soldier must be saluted. Anyone who disregards this must expect the military to make themselves respected by every means.*

"9. The German soldiers are permitted to inspect all vehicles, parcels, etc., of all inhabitants of the neighbourhood. In this connection all resistance will be severely punished.

"10. *Whoever knows that quantities greater than 100 litres of petroleum, benzine, benzol or any similar liquid is to be found at a given place in the above-mentioned Communes, and who does not inform the military Commandant there, when there is no doubt as to the place or the quantity, incurs death.* Quantities of 100 litres are only referred to.

"11. *Anyone who does not obey the order 'hands up' makes himself guilty (sic) of the penalty of death.*

"12. *Entrance to the Château des Bruyères*, and also of the drives in the park, *is forbidden under penalty of death* between dusk and dawn, between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. (German time), to all persons who are not soldiers of the German army.

"13. During the daytime entrance is only permitted by the North-West gate, where the guard is, to persons holding permits. In the interests of the population, persons are not permitted to assemble in the proximity of the guard.

"14. Whoever, by spreading false news, liable to lower the moral of the German troops, and whoever makes any plans directed against the German army, *will be a suspect, and runs the risk of being shot on the spot.*

"15. While, by the above regulations, the inhabitants of the district of Fortress IIIb are threatened with severe punishments if they infringe these regulations in any way, these same people, if they show themselves peaceable, can count on the most benevolent protection and help on every occasion when harm is or might be done to them.

"16. Demands for the giving of a fixed quantity of cattle are made daily, from 10 to 12 in the morning and from 2 to 3 in the afternoon at the Château des Bruyères to the Cattle Commission.

"17. Whoever injures or attempts to injure the German Army by taking advantage of the Red Cross Flag, and is discovered, *will be hanged.*

"(S) DIECKMANN.
"Commandant-Major.

"Copy certified correct:
"The Burgomaster: Victor Hodeige.
"Grivegnée, 8th September, 1914."

VIII. SUMMONS TO SURRENDER.

" 4th September, 1914.

" To the Commandant of Termonde and at the same time to the Burgomaster of Termonde.

" The Germans have captured Termonde. We have placed all round the town siege artillery of the largest calibre. Even now people dare to shoot from the houses on the German troops. The town and the fortress are summoned to hoist the white flag immediately and to cease fighting. If you do not agree to this summons, the town will be razed in a quarter of an hour by a very heavy bombardment.

" All the armed forces of Termonde will immediately deposit their arms at the Brussels gate, at the South of the town. The arms of the inhabitants will be deposited at the same time and at the same place.

" The General Commanding the German Troops before Termonde,

" (S) VON BOEHN."

IX.—PROCLAMATION POSTED IN BRUSSELS ON 25TH SEPTEMBER, 1914.

" General Government in Belgium.

" It has happened in districts at present occupied by more or less strong bodies of German troops that convoys of waggons and of patrols have been attacked by surprise by the inhabitants

" I draw the attention of the public to the fact that a ' register ' is kept of the localities, in the neighbourhood of which such attacks have taken place, and that they may expect their punishment as soon as the German troops pass near them.

" Brussels, 25th September, 1914.

" The Governor-General of Belgium,

" BARON VON DER GOLTZ,

" Fieldmarshal."

X.—NOTICE POSTED IN BRUSSELS ON 5TH OCTOBER, 1914, AND PROBABLY IN MOST OF THE COMMUNES OF THE KINGDOM.

" During the evening of 25th September the railway line and the telegraph wires were destroyed on the line Lovenjoul-Vertryck. In consequence of this, these two localities have had to render an account of this, and had to give hostages in the morning of the 30th September.

" In future, the localities nearest to the place where similar acts take place will be punished without pity ; *it matters little if they are accomplices or not.* For this purpose hostages have been taken from all localities near the railway line, thus menaced, and at the first attempt to destroy the railway line, or the telephone or telegraph wires, they will be immediately shot.

" Further, all the troops charged with the duty of guarding the railway have been ordered to shoot any person who, in a suspicious manner, approaches the line, or the telegraph or telephone wires.

" The Governor-General of Belgium,

" (S.) BARON VON DER GOLTZ,

" Fieldmarshal."

XI.—NOTICE POSTED IN BRUSSELS ON 1ST NOVEMBER, 1914.

" A legally constituted court-martial pronounced the following sentences on 28th October :—

" (1.) The police constable de Ryckère was condemned, for having attacked, in the legal exercise of his duties, an authorized agent of the German authorities, for having voluntarily inflicted bodily hurt in two cases, with the aid of other persons, for having procured the escape of a prisoner in one case, and for having attacked a German soldier, to

" 5 years' imprisonment.

" (2.) Police constable Seghers was condemned for having attacked, in the legal exercise of his duties, an authorized agent of the German authorities, for voluntarily inflicting bodily injury on this German agent, and for having procured the escape of a prisoner (all these offences constituting one charge), to

" 3 years' imprisonment.

" The sentences were confirmed on 31st October by the Governor-General, Baron von der Goltz.

" The town of Brussels, not including its suburbs, has been punished for the injury done by its police constable de Ryckere to a German soldier, by an additional fine of

" 5 million francs

" Brussels, 1st November, 1914.

" The Governor of Brussels,

" BARON VON LUETWITZ.

" General."

Who, after reading such publications, will be astonished at the murders, fires, pillage and destruction committed everywhere where the German army encountered any resistance? If a German corps or patrol are received at the entrance to a village with shots fired by soldiers belonging to the regular troops, but who are afterwards forced to retire, the population is declared responsible ; civilians are accused of having fired or co-operated in the defence, and without inquiry, the locality is given up to pillage and fire, and a part of its inhabitants massacred.

The odious actions committed in all parts of the territory show such a degree of regularity that the responsibility may rest on the whole German army. They are only the application of a preconceived system, the putting into practice of the instructions, which have made of the enemy troops operating in Belgium " a horde of barbarians and a band of incendiaries."

SEVENTH REPORT.

GERMAN USE OF EXPLOSIVE BULLETS.

In its second report the Commission of Enquiry reported that expanding bullets had been left behind by the German troops on the battlefield at Werchter, and that medical reports established the fact that Belgian soldiers had been wounded by balls of this kind. The German Army operating in Belgium has continued to use these prohibited balls. The Commission of Enquiry considers it proper to reproduce some of the documents which prove this fact, and we have chosen from the file of certificates in our hands the following :—

" (A) Use of explosive balls for rifle and pistol by the German army at the combat of Werchter, 25th August, 1914.

" We, the undersigned, doctors of medicine, attached to the 4th Lancers, declare that we attended to a soldier of the 5th Lancers after the combat of Werchter (26th August, 1914). The man had in his left forearm a wound whose size and aspect caused us to conclude that it could only have been the result of an explosive bullet, no shrapnel having been fired by the enemy during the action in which the Lancers were engaged.

" (Signed) DR. ATTICHAUX.
DR. VAN DE MAELE.

" Attested by the Colonel of the Staff Gillain.

" (B) The herewith enclosed explosive bullets for rifle and pistol were picked up on the position abandoned by the enemy at Werchter on the evening of 25th August.

" (Signed) DUBOIS,

" Commandant of the Staff.

" (C) Use of Dum-Dum bullets at Lubbeck, 10th September, 1914.

" On 10th September, 1914, I was called in to attend to the rifleman-cyclist Leurs, wounded while on patrol near Lubbeck. I have to report the two following facts contrary to the usages of war :—

" The soldier Leurs had been hit by a dum-dum bullet. His left leg had been completely smashed up, from the ankle-bone to the mid-thigh : broken pieces of bone were sticking out through the flesh. The leg had to be amputated to save the unfortunate man's life.

" Thanks to the arrival of a Belgian armed motor-car, which came to our help, I was able to remove the wounded man to the village of Rhode-St. Pierre, where Dr. Derymaker examined with me the size and gravity of the wound.

" (Signed) DR. LEON PIERRE.

" Attached to the 1st Company of Rifle-Cyclists."

N.B.—" Another cyclist, Private Piette, of the same patrol, was killed by a ball of the same kind, and buried by my order on the road between Louvain and Tirlemont.

" Signed) E. SIRON,

" Major Commanding the Cyclist Battalion."

" (D) Use of Dum-Dum bullets at the combat of Chapelle-au-Bois, September 4, 1914.

" To the Inspector General.

" Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that on September 4, the soldier Alphonse-Joseph Lowie (2nd Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Chasseurs) was shot by a German patrol with two dum-dum balls. The first shattered his mouth ; the second (in his left thigh) caused a wound large enough to contain a man's fist. Besides these the soldier had received other balls in his rear parts, which had caused normal lesions, *i.e.*, the orifice was about the size of a cigarette only.

" (Signed) DR. COUVREUR,

" Chief Surgeon of the 3rd *Chasseurs à Pied.*"

N.B.—The Captain commanding the company adds :

" I saw this man just after he had been wounded, and stated in my report that the wound in his face (I did not know of that in his thigh) was certainly made by an expanding bullet, or at all events by some missile not admitted by the Laws of War. He was wounded by a German patrol at 6 a.m. on 4th September, 1914, six hundred mètres to the south of the church of Chapelle-au-Bois.

" (E) Use of Dum-Dum bullets at the combat of Ninove, 26th September, 1914.

" Ghent, 26th September, 1914.

" To the Minister of War.

" I have the honour to send you herewith some cartridges fitted with the so-called ' dum-dum balls,' taken on the person of the Hanoverian *Ober-leutnant* Von Hadeln, made prisoner by my troops at Ninove on the 26th of this month. His pistol, which he threw away just before he was taken, could not be recovered.

" (Signed) L. CLOETTE,

" Lieutenant-Governor and Governor of Ghent."

These cartridges, still in the possession of the Commission of Enquiry, were submitted for examination to an expert. He made the following report:—

"The box with green label sent me ['20 *patronen No.* 403 *für die Mauser selbsladende pistole caliber* 7.63'] must have contained loaded cartridges. It contains one clip in three of expanding bullets taken from the special boxes with yellow tickets. These balls are made expansive in the manufacture; it would not be possible to make them such by hand.

"Antwerp, 28th August, 1914. "(Signed) V. ROUSSEUX,
"Expert Armourer."

"(F) Use of expanding bullets at the combat of Alost, 27th September, 1914.

"Ghent, 30th September, 1914.

"To the Minister of State Cooreman.

"We have the honour to report to you on a special case which came under our treatment.

"The soldier Théophile Levant, of the 5th Lancers, was wounded at 12 noon on 27th September, at the combat of Alost, by an expanding ball. The orifice of entry, corresponding to the diameter of the ball, was situated one-third of the way up his left forearm, on the front side.

"The ball exploded, carrying away all the bones of the wrist, the ends of four upper small bones of the palm, and the soft tissues of the back of the wrist. On the front of the wrist the flesh was lacerated in several places. The lesions were such that it was necessary to amputate the forearm.

"The amputation took place at 8 p.m. on 27th September. Present: Doctors Van de Velde, Neirynck, and De Broyker. The operation was also witnessed by Doctors Bossaerts (Chief of the Red Cross Hospital at Ghent) and the nurses on duty, Mesdames M. Lippens, E. J. Braun, P. Lippens and Mesdemoiselles de Hemptine and Lamont, also by the hospital attendants MM. Braun and Carpentier.

"Annexed are two photographs and one X-ray photograph of the wounded hand. It has been preserved.

"Signed by the eleven persons mentioned above in the Report,

"DR. J. VAN DE VELDE, DR. NEIRYNX, DR. DE BROYKER, M. LIPPENS, S. LIPPENS, A. DE HEMPTINE, EMMA LAMONT, DR. BOSSAERTS, A. BRAUN, E. J. BRAUN, RENE CARPENTIER."

MALTREATMENT OF PRISONERS AND WOUNDED.

The facts detailed below suffice to illustrate the manner in which, under certain circumstances, the German troops have acted in dealing with the wounded and the prisoners. The Commission, in earlier reports, has already cited the cases of two Belgian soldiers who were cast into a burning house between Impde and Wolverthem, and of 26 Belgian wounded and prisoners who were shot at Aerschot on 18th August, 1914. Incidents of this kind have been frequent.

Quartermaster Baudoin van de Kerchove, 3rd Lancers, deposes that after he had been wounded by two German bullets at the combat of Orsmael (10th August, 1914), the Germans maltreated him in spite of his injuries. One of them took his carbine from his hand, whirled it round his head, and inflicted a violent blow on his ribs with it. A second German, seeing that he was still alive, fired on him from a distance of only six feet; luckily for him the bullet only inflicted a grazing wound on his abdomen. [Deposition taken at Ghent, 17th August, 1914.]

A cyclist-rifleman, who fell into the hands of the Germans in this same combat, was found hanging in a hedge. We have several witnesses to this fact, among them the priest of the village, who took charge of the burying of the corpse. [Evidence of Captain Dezande, of the Cyclist Battalion.]

On August 16th, French soldiers, wounded on the previous night at the battle of Dinant, were found with their skulls battered in by blows with clubbed rifles. [Evidence taken at the Session on 30th September, 1914.]

On August 23rd, at Namur, German soldiers moved their own wounded from the private hospital of Dr. Bribosia, which was used as a dressing-station, but killed two Belgian and two French wounded men who had been tended there. They then set the hospital on fire. [Evidence at the Sessions of 29th August, 1914, 28th September, 1914, and 1st October, 1914.]

On 25th August, at Hofstaede, near Malines, a Belgian rifleman left slightly wounded was finished off with blows from the butts of rifles which smashed in his skull. [Evidence taken at Session of 27th August, 1914.]

Twenty-two soldiers of the same corps were found dead in a little wood lying to the right of the road from Malines to Terneuze, near Baarbeck. Eighteen of them had been killed by bayonet thrusts in the face; they had bullet wounds, but these were not dangerous, only sufficient to prevent them from escaping. But the four remaining Belgians, who had fatal bullet wounds, bore no traces of the bayonet. [Evidence taken at Session of 12th October, 1914.]

On 25th August, at the combat in the neighbourhood of Sempst, the soldier Lootens, of the 24th of the Line, who was charged to aid the ambulance staff in carrying off the wounded, found two Belgian corpses bound to a tree. These soldiers were still wearing their full equipment; their coats were torn open, and it was clear that they had been bayoneted in the stomach; their entrails were protruding from the wounds. [Evidence taken at Session of 12th September, 1914.]

The colonel commanding the 2nd *Chasseurs à Cheval* states in his report of September 17th, 1914, that Trooper Richard Baechelandt, of his regiment, is entered as having been killed by the Germans during a reconnaissance carried out on September 6th. Evidence showed that he had been found with his hands lashed together with a leather strap. He had evidently been first wounded, then captured, then finished off with a bayonet thrust in the stomach. [Evidence at Session of 12th September, 1914.]

On 11th September, 1914, Joseph Louis Burm, private in the 24th of the Line, deposed that he was captured by the Germans near Aerschot, and that his captors, to compel him to answer questions, plunged his hands into a saucepan of boiling water. The regimental surgeon of the corps, Thoné, bears witness that Burm's hands showed traces of having been scalded. This soldier states that two others of his comrades were also tortured. One of them, who had offered resistance, was seized and held by the arms and legs while his head was twisted round till death followed. The second had one of his fingers chopped off. [Evidence taken at Session of 21st September, 1914.]

Abbé Van Crombruggen makes, on 27th October, the following deposition:—

"On 20th October, 1914, after the German attack on the bridge of Dixmude, at about 3 o'clock, I, the undersigned, along with the other witnesses whose names are appended to this paper, made the following discovery. The body of Sub-Lieutenant Camille Poncin (of the 2nd Company, 3rd Battalion, 12th of the Line) was found in a posture indicating by every evidence that he had been executed by shooting. He had been put in bonds by means of a coil of iron wire, wound some ten times round his legs from the level of the ankles. This operation completed, the victim had been shot, whether in a standing or a kneeling position. His body, with the head thrown far backward, was lying on its back: the knees were soiled with mud, the heels were underneath the body. The unhappy officer must have sunk on his knees when falling backward, unless he was made to kneel before the volley was fired. In his breast were the marks of many bullets, very evident.

"(Signed) F. VAN CROMBRUGGEN,
"Chaplain of the 12th of the Line.

"Witnesses:—Jacques Mathieu, Henri Dreesen, Mathieu Boers, Theodore Jodogne, all soldiers of the 12th of the Line."

Wounded and prisoners on their way to Germany have been frequently deprived of food and the most elementary assistance during their voyage. English prisoners have been subjected to specially bad treatment.

The Red Cross branch at Verviers has organised a system for supplying food to wounded and prisoners passing through that town. On 18th September, about 5 p.m., a train with several carriages full of English prisoners passed through the Eastern Railway Station. The Germans prevented the ambulance men from giving them food. Another train contained both French and English prisoners. The sentries permitted an ambulance attendant to help the French, but prevented him from assisting the English. Witnesses report that this kind of incident occurred repeatedly.

On Wednesday, 16th September, the Germans put out of the train at the Eastern Railway Station two French wounded, a sergeant-major and a private, who declared that they had been wounded at St. Quentin eighteen days back, and that since their wounds were hastily tied up on the actual battlefield they had never received any attendance at all.

MALTREATMENT OF HOSPITAL STAFF AND MISUSE OF THE RED CROSS.

There are numerous depositions concerning attacks by the Germans on ambulance trains, as also on the arrest of the medical staff (who have often been sent to Germany), on the abuse of the White Flag, and of the emblems of the Red Cross—all violations of the Customs of War.

(*a*) On the road from Tirlemont to Hannut, on 16th August, a group of stretcher-bearers was assailed by the Germans, who fired on them. There were no soldiers with them, and no mistake was possible. [Session of 1st September.]

(*b*) At Aerschot, on 19th August, ambulance men in clerical dress, wearing the Red Cross armlet, were fired upon while they were gathering up the wounded, although they pointed to the emblem which they were wearing. One of them received brutal treatment for a whole day in the hospital, while he was attending to the wounded. [Session of 26th and 27th August.]

(*c*) At Louvenjoul, on 19th August, the Germans tore away the armlets of three ambulance men and knocked them down. They were arrested, beaten, and abused. At last they were released, and while carrying off a wounded man had to drop him seven times, because the Germans turned the fire of a machine-gun upon them. One of the party received a ball in the thigh. [Session of 17th September.]

(*d*) A Belgian ambulance column, under Chief-Surgeon Petit, was attacked on 23rd August while leaving the village of Bioul, near Namur. It was fired on with violence. Chief-Surgeon Petit was wounded, as was also Assistant-Surgeon M. Snouck. The ambulance men were scattered; of a column of about 500 persons hardly 100 succeeded in escaping. [Session of 10th September.]

(*e*) On the road from Werchter to Haecht, on August 20th, at about 3 p.m., a motor carriage with the Red Cross flag, containing three wounded, was attacked by the Germans. Numerous shots were fired; one went through the body of the car and pierced the legs of two of the wounded men. [Session of August 31st.]

(*f*) The hospitals of Heyst-op-den-Berg and Malines were not respected when the Germans bombarded these places, though the Red Cross flag was hoisted very conspicuously on both establishments.

(*g*) When entering Namur on August 19th the Germans riddled the hospital with bullets. [Session of November 28th.]

(*h*) On September 27th the Germans captured, in despite of Article 14 of the Geneva Convention, an ambulance carriage, after shooting the two horses and wounding a stretcher-bearer, who was kept as a prisoner.

(*i*) Before this, at Haelen, they had made prisoners of a hospital section of the 2nd Belgian Division, and at Liége they stopped two hospital trains. [Session of 2nd October.]

(*j*) On 28th September, a horse ambulance, containing an assistant-surgeon, a chaplain acting as stretcher-bearer, and a driver, was fired on by the Germans in the most systematic fashion. All three of the inmates were severely wounded. [Session of 2nd October.]

(*k*) The Medical Inspector-General of the Army reports in his letter of September 22nd to the Commission that the enemy detained at Liége some members of the Medical Staff, though they were not being employed, and had sent others to Germany. Other members have been detained at Namur. The "Ober-Artz" declared that it was to the interest of the Germans to prevent our medical men from rejoining the army at Antwerp, in order that it might be deprived of sanitary help—"Sickness and epidemics being for them a trump to the good." [Evidence taken at Session of 28th September, 1914.]

(*l*) The annexed correspondence should be specially noted for the particularly odious manner in which the Geneva Convention has been violated—[Three letters annexed, giving the case of Professor Fredericq, of Liége, who is held prisoner in a fortress, in order that pressure may be brought on his son, Dr. Henri Fredericq, now with the Belgian army, to return to Liége and surrender himself.]

(*m*) On 23rd November, the German military authorities at Antwerp arrested 24 military surgeons and 12 apothecaries. They have been interned at Heidelberg and are still there.

(*n*) Witnesses attest that the German assaulting columns in the combat of Schiplaeken, near Hofstaede, were preceded by a white flag; that on 4th September, on the road from Lierre to Aerschot, German soldiers made use of a white flag in order to entrap a Belgian officer making a reconnaissance in an armed motor-car; that on 25th August, at Houthem and Eppeghem, and on 17th September at Meysse, the Germans hoisted the Red Cross flag on houses occupied by their troops, and on a barrack where they had parked their artillery. [Evidence taken at the Sessions of 29th August, 18th September, 7th September, and 26th September for the separate cases.]

OUTRAGES ON CIVILIANS.

The depositions made both by civilians and by military men, proving that the Germans have compelled them to serve as guides, or have forced them to carry out military works, are numerous. They also forced both Belgian soldiers and a part of the non-military population to march in front of their troops. The following are cases :—

(a) The soldiers Goffin, Heyvaerts, and Hertleer depose that, having been made prisoners on 6th August, along with other men of their company, they were taken on by the Germans with their hands bound behind their backs. At Saive they came in contact with a company of the Belgian 19th of the Line. The Germans placed them in front, and at a certain moment ordered them to cry "Belgians, do not fire—you are shooting at Belgians!" Two of the prisoners fell, shot down by the balls of their own comrades. [Evidence taken at the Session of 19th September.]

(*b*) On Tuesday, 18th August, Joseph Hymen, of Schaeffen, and two inhabitants of Meldert were forced to go in front of the German troops through the town of Diest and to guide them to Montaigu. [Evidence taken at the Session of 3rd September.]

(*c*) On the same day a German patrol of about ten men, led by a young lieutenant, arrived at Thildonck preceded by a Belgian workman, whom they had forced to serve as their guide. [Evidence taken at the Session of 26th August.]

(*d*) At Namur the German forced the inhabitants of the village of Warisoul to dig trenches near the cemetery of that place exposed to the fire of the forts. [Evidence taken at the Session of 5th September.]

(*e*) The inhabitants of Bierwart were forced to throw up defensive works along the high road. [Evidence taken at the Session of 8th September.]

(*f*) At the bridge of Lives, opposite Biez, the Germans placed women and children at the head of their attacking column. Both women and children were brought down by the Belgian fire. [Same Session.]

(*g*) At very many points in Hainault the Germans made civilians, women, and children march in front of their columns. For example, at Marchienne a German column drove in front of it a crowd of several hundred civilians. It was maching on Montigny-le-Tilleul, where the first serious collision with French troops took place. [Evidence taken at the Session of 30th September.]

(*h*) On 22nd August the Germans took from their houses at Grimbergen Jean Olbrechts, Arthur van Campenhout, and Auguste van Cappelen. They held them prisoners for eight days. During their detention they were forced to go out under artillery fire for the purpose of gathering up abandoned military stores, and also to dig trenches, as were other inhabitants of Grimbergen. [Session of 1st September.]

(*i*) On 24th August, Michael de Vleeshchower, his brother Joseph, and their father, 67 years of age, all of Grimbergen, were driven in front of a party of Germans to shelter them from Belgian artillery fire. [Session of 1st September.]

(*j*) On 25th August, the whole male population of Eppeghem was taken out by the Germans and compelled to work at trenches. [Session of 7th September.]

(*k*) At Sempst, during the combat of 25th August, both men and women were placed by the Germans in the front line of fire. [Sessions of 27th August and 13th September.]

(*l*) On 25th August, the Germans constrained about 200 people of the village of Hofstaede, men, women and children, to march in front of them. Arriving at the high road of Terveuren they came on Belgian troops at a distance of 150 or 200 yards. The Germans fired from behind the prisoners. The Belgians opened fire from the flanks only, to avoid hitting their people. [Deposition taken at Ostend, 23rd September.]

(*m*) On 26th August, the Germans carried off, with their hands bound behind their backs, a party of more than seventy inhabitants of Louvain. On arriving at Hérent, in the front rank of the troops, they came under fire, a slight skirmish being in progress. Next day they were driven towards Malines, and told that they were to have a taste of Belgian machine-gun fire. They were released at the Belgian outposts. Four hours after their arrival at Malines the bombardment of that city began. [Sessions of 28th and 29th August.]

(*n*) On 29th August, at Hérent, the Germans forced 500 women and children, preceded by the priests of Wygmael and Wesemael, to march in front of their forces. Many inhabitants of Louvain were for several days driven about on forced marches, or forced to dig trenches. [Session of 4th September.]

(*o*) About a thousand of the inhabitants of Wygmael, men, women and children, were compelled to follow the German troops for a period of some ten days while fighting was in progress. [Session of 4th September.]

(*p*) On 12th September, at Erpe, a German column of from 200 to 300 men was attacked by a Belgian armed motor-car. The Germans seized in the houses of the village some 20 or 25 men and lads, including one boy of only 13 years old, and placed them across the high road. Two lads were wounded in the thigh by a bullet. The occupants of the armed motor, seeing that civilians had been placed in front of them, ceased their fire. One witness adds that at one moment he heard an order given that all the prisoners were to be shot if the Belgians continued their fire. [Session of 5th September.]

(*q*) On Saturday, 26th September, at the combat of Alost, the Germans forced several inhabitants of Alost to march in front of them while they were attacking the Belgian troops. The names of those persons were Franz Meulebrock, Cornelis van Hat, Emile van der Meersch, Gustave Droesat, and his brother Alphonse, Louis Ongena and Franzois Buyd. The Belgian soldiers shouted to them to throw themselves flat. Franz Meulemans was struck by a German bullet. The enemy having been repulsed, these civilians were able to escape. [Session of 12th October.]

BOMBARDMENT OF OPEN TOWNS.

The directions of Articles 25, 26, and 27 of the "Règlement Concernant les lois et coutumes de la Guerre sur Terre," which relate to Bombardment, have not been respected. Many open and undefended places have been bombarded.

The Commission has already reported the bombardment of Bourg-Léopold and Heyst-op-den-Berg, open and undefended villages. The towns of Malines, Alost, and Termonde have also been bombarded when no armed force defended them. Buildings dedicated to Religion, Art, Science and Charity; Historical Monuments and Hospitals have not been spared. The Cathedrals of Malines and Termonde, in particular, were deliberately aimed at. The Cloth-Hall of Ypres, an incomparable artistic monument, has been demolished.

Projectiles have been launched from balloons and aeroplanes, against the prescription of International Conventions. Twice bombs were dropped on Antwerp from a Zeppelin, under circumstances which constitute a violation of the Laws of War.

On the night of 1st-2nd September, a German "Dirigible" dropped several projectiles on the communes of Semmerzaeke and Vosselaere, undefended villages.

On the morning of 4th September, a bomb was dropped on the town of Eecloo, an open and undefended place. On 5th September two bombs were launched from a German aeroplane on the town of Ghent, an open and undefended place.

On 25th September, a Zeppelin flew over Ostend, and dropped four bombs on this open and undefended town.

On the night of 26th-27th September, a Zeppelin dropped four bombs on the town of Deynze, an open and undefended place. Three of them struck the Convent of the Sisters of St. Vincent de Paul in the Rue du Moulin, which was occupied by sick, orphans, and refugees to the number of about 200. The panic provoked was indescribable.

On 29th September, at about 1 o'clock, three bombs were dropped on Dottignies and two on Thielt, open and undefended places.

Le Havre, 5th December, 1914.

EIGHTH REPORT.

THE ARREST OF HOSTAGES AND UNLAWFUL REQUISITIONS.

The eighth report sums up the conclusions of the enquiry made on the spot concerning acts of violence and pillage, arson, and murder of peaceable inhabitants, which marked the progress of the German Army across the province of Belgian Luxembourg during the months of August and September, 1914.

The Germans systematically arrested hostages. The treatment of them varied much. In certain places they were not seriously maltreated. In others they were subjected to abominable treatment. For example, at Marche the three principal Magistrates of the neighbourhood were, turn by turn for several weeks, kept prisoners in a cell of the gaol commonly allotted to ordinary criminals. Elsewhere, hostages taken in one village were removed to another corner of the Province and shut up there for weeks. Finally, certain hostages were taken off to Germany and are there in detention at the present hour. Usually after they reached Germany they were not misused, but some of them during the voyage thither were subjected to the worst treatment. They were deprived of food and of sleep, and were the object of outrages on the part both of soldiers and of civilians.

In almost every one of the villages named below, and in others also, where the excesses committed were of a less grave character, plunder was systematically complete. The soldiers did not content themselves with seizing food, cattle, horses, for which they had need, and for which they gave no vouchers or requisition, but took away from the houses by force all that they chose. The number of bottles of wine stolen was innumerable. The first care of the soldiers on arriving in a village was to ask for wine and spirits. Soon they got drunk, and scenes of cruelty, incendiarism and promiscuous shooting immediately followed. In the farms the soldiers cut down with their swords or shot pigs and poultry. They fired wildly, and so killed or wounded unintentionally a certain number of inhabitants. At Lubin a soldier, firing at a hen, shot a child less than a year old through both legs.

At Arlon the pillage of certain houses was carried out by order of the military authorities. Eleven days after the town was occupied the telephone wire was broken. The military authorities gave the town four hours to produce a war contribution of 100,000 francs in cash, adding that if the cash was not forthcoming 100 houses would be pillaged. The money was finally produced, but forty-seven houses had already been sacked by order of the officers.

INCENDIARISM.

The Northern parts of the Province have been generally respected. On the other hand, two regions in the South of the Province have been completely devastated. The first of these regions includes the villages of Porcheresse, Maissin, Anloy, Villance, Framont, Ochamp, Jehonville, Offagne, Blancheoreille, Assenois, and Glaumont. The other region includes all the Communes in the triangle between a line drawn from Florenville to Virton, from Virton to Habay, and from Habay to Florenville.

We have drawn up rough statistics of the houses burnt in each of these different localities, viz. :

Neufchâteau	21 houses burnt.
Etalle	30 houses burnt.
Houdemont	64 houses burnt.
Rulles	Half the houses destroyed by fire.
Ansart	Village completely burnt.
Tintigny	Only 3 houses still standing.
Jamoigne	Half the village destroyed.
Les Bulles	Half the village destroyed.
Meyen	42 houses destroyed.
Rossignol	Village entirely burnt.
Mussy la Ville	20 houses burnt.
Bertrix	15 houses destroyed.
Bleid	Great part of village destroyed.
Signeux	Great part of village destroyed.
Ethe	Five-sixths of the village burnt.
Bellefontaine	6 houses burnt.
Musson	Half the village destroyed.
Baranzy	Only 4 houses remaining.
St. Léger	6 houses burnt.
Semel	Every house burnt.
Maissin	64 out of 100 houses burnt.
Villance	9 houses burnt.
Anloy	26 houses burnt.

These figures are low estimates. Following a list which is necessarily incomplete, the number of houses burnt in the Province of Luxembourg is over 3,000. It must be understood that the houses whose destruction is thus reported were burnt not during the operations of war but by wilful and systematic incendiarism.

EXECUTION OF CIVILIANS.

In a great number of villages the German troops gave themselves up to veritable executions *en masse*. The number of men shot in the whole Province is over 1,000. The following figures relate to certain villages only :—

Neufchâteau	18 shot.
Vance	1 shot.
Etalle	30 shot.
Houdemont	11 shot.
Tintigny	157 shot.
Izele	10 shot.
Rossignol	106 shot.
Bertrix	21 shot.
Ethe	About 300 persons shot. 530 in all missing.
Bellefontaine	1 man shot.
Latour	Only 17 men surviving in the village.
St. Léger	11 shot.
Maissin	10 men, 1 woman and 1 young girl shot; 2 men and 2 women wounded.
Villance	2 men shot; 1 young girl wounded.
Anloy	52 men and women shot.
Claireuse	2 men shot; 2 men hung.

About 111 persons of the Communes of Ethe and Rossignol were publicly shot at Arlon. Some days later eight persons from neighbouring Communes were executed there. A Police officer at Arlon named Lempereur was shot without trial, on a trifling accusation, which was afterwards discovered to be unfounded.

Cases of rape by drunken soldiers have been numerous. In one village a woman was violated by soldiers who had shot her husband. Facts of this kind are naturally hidden by the families, and the sentiment which makes them act so has been respected by the Commissioners, but they have no doubt that cases of rape were quite common.

In the most part of these villages the troops did not even allege that they had been attacked by the civilian population. It seems certain that the inhabitants did not commit any hostile act. In many places German soldiers had been shot by French patrols and sentinels, and it seems certain that the German troops systematically sacked and burnt any village on whose land some of their soldiers had been thus slain, even when they were aware that the casualties had been caused by the regular soldiers of the hostile army. In many localities destruction of the villages cannot be explained even on this pretence. The inhabitants say that the crimes of which they were victims can only be explained by the soldiers being drunk, by their pleasure in inflicting suffering, or by their anger at the unexpected resistance of the Belgian Army, or finally by their having received orders for systematic destruction from their superiors.

Extract from Cardinal Mercier's Pastoral Letter. (Archbishop of Malines, Xmas, 1914).

I have traversed the greater part of the districts most terribly devastated in my diocese*; and the ruins I beheld, and the ashes, were more dreadful than I, prepared by the saddest of forebodings, could have imagined. Other parts of my diocese, which I have not yet had time to visit,† have in like manner been laid waste. Churches, schools, asylums, hospitals, convents in great numbers, are in ruins. Entire villages have all but disappeared. At Werchter-Wackerzeel, for instance, out of three hundred and eighty homes, a hundred and thirty remain; at Tremeloo two-thirds of the village are overthrown; at Bueken out of a hundred houses twenty are standing; at Schaffen one hundred and eighty-nine houses out of two hundred are destroyed—eleven still stand. At Louvain the third part of the buildings are down; one thousand and seventy-four dwellings have disappeared; on the town land and in the suburbs, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-three houses have been burnt.

In this dear city of Louvain, perpetually in my thoughts, the magnificent church of St. Peter will never recover its former splendour. The ancient college of St. Ives, the art schools, the consular and commercial schools of the University, the old markets, our rich library with its collections, its unique and unpublished manuscripts, its archives, its gallery of great portraits of illustrious rectors, chancellors, professors, dating from the time of its foundation, which preserved for masters and students alike a noble tradition and were an incitement in their studies—all this accumulation of intellectual, of historic, and of artistic riches, the fruit of the labours of five centuries—all is in the dust.

Many a parish lost its pastor. There is now sounding in my ears the sorrowful voice of an old man of whom I asked whether he had had Mass on Sunday in his battered church. "It is two months," he said, "since we had a church." The parish priest and the curate had been interned in a concentration camp.

Thousands of Belgian citizens have in like manner been deported to the prisons of Germany, to Munsterlagen, to Celle, to Magdeburg. At Munsterlagen alone three thousand one hundred civil prisoners were numbered. History will tell of the physical and moral torments of their long martyrdom. Hundreds of innocent men were shot. I possess no complete necrology; but I know that there were ninety-one shot at Aerschot, and that there, under pain of death, their fellow citizens were compelled to dig their graves. In the Louvain group of communes one hundred and seventy-six persons, men and women, old men and sucklings, rich and poor, in health and sickness, were shot or burnt.

In my diocese alone I know that thirteen priests or religious were put to death. One of these, the parish priest of Gelrode, suffered, I believe, a veritable martyrdom. I made a pilgrimage to his grave, and, amid the little flock which so lately he had been feeding with the zeal of an apostle, there did I pray to him that from the height of Heaven he would guard his parish, his diocese, his country.

We can neither number our dead nor compute the measure of our ruins. And what would it be if we turned our sad steps towards Liège, Namur, Audenne, Dinant, Tamines, Charleroi, Virton, Semois, Luxembourg, Termonde, and Dixmude.

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* Duffel, Lierre, Berlaer Saint Rombaut, Konings-Hoyckt, Mortsel, Waelhem, Muysen, Wayre Sainte Caterine, Wavre Notre-Dame, Sempst, Weerde, Eppeghen, Hofstade, Elewyt, Rymenam, Boort-Meerbeek, Wespelaer, Haecht, Werchter-Wackerzeel, Rotselaer, Tremeloo; Louvain and its suburban environs, Blauwput, Kessel-Loo, Boven-Loo, Linden, Herent, Thildonck, Bueken, Relst, Aerschot, Wesemael, Hersselt, Diest, Schaffen, Molenstede, Rillaer, Gelrode.

† Haekendover, Roosbeek, Bautersem, Budingen, Neerlinder, Ottignies, Mousty, Wavre, Beyghem, Capelle-au-Bois, Humbeek, Nieuwenrode, Liezele, Londerzeel, Heyndonck, Mariekerke, Weert, Blaesvelt.

Atrocities in France.

Report Presented to the President of the Council by the Commission Instituted with a view to Investigating Acts Committed by the Enemy in

Violation of International Law.

Decree of the 23rd September, 1914.

MM. Georges Payelle, First President of the Cour des Comptes; Armand Mollard, Minister Plenipotentiary; Georges Maringer, Counsellor of State; and Edmond Paillot, Counsellor at the Court of Appeal.

To the President of the Council of Ministers.

Sir,—Having been appointed by virtue of a decree of the 23rd of last September to carry out on the spot an inquiry in relation to acts committed in violation of International Law in the portions of French territory occupied by the enemy which have been reconquered by the armies of the Republic, we have the honour to lay before you the first results of our mission.

We have already a full harvest of information to submit. It includes, however, a very limited part of the findings at which we should have been able to arrive if we had not submitted all the evidence which was laid before us to severe criticism and rigorous examination. We have indeed believed it to be our duty only to place on record those facts which, being established beyond dispute, constitute with absolute certainty what may be clearly termed crimes, omitting those the proofs of which were, in our view, insufficient, or which, however destructive or cruel they were, might have been the result of acts of war properly so-called, rather than of wilful excesses, attributable to the enemy.

The lamentable sights which we have had before our eyes have made the task to which we all four addressed ourselves, with a close association of ideas and feelings, a very grievous one. It would indeed have been too painful, if we had not found a powerful support in the sight of the wonderful troops whom we met at the front, in the welcome of the military leaders whose kind assistance has never failed us, and in the sight of the population who bear unprecedented calamities with the most dignified resignation. In the districts we have crossed, and particularly in that country of Lorraine which was so frequently the victim of the scourge of war, not one entreaty for help, not one moan, reached our ears; and yet the terrible misery of which we have been witness surpasses in extent and horror anything which the imagination can conceive. On every side our eyes rested on ruin. Whole villages have been destroyed by bombardment or fire; towns formerly full of life are now nothing but deserts full of ruins; and, in visiting the scenes of desolation where the invader's torch has done its work, one feels continually as though one were walking among the remains of one of those cities of antiquity which have been annihilated by the great cataclysms of nature.

In truth it can be stated that never has a war carried on between civilised nations assumed the savage and ferocious character of the one which at this moment is being waged on our soil by an implacable adversary. Pillage, rape, arson, and murder are the common practice of our enemies; and the facts which have been revealed to us day by day at once constitute definite crimes against common rights, punished by the codes of every country with the most severe and the most dishonouring penalties, and which prove an astonishing degeneration in German habits of thought since 1870.

Crimes against women and young girls have been of appalling frequency. We have proved a great number of them, but they only represent an infinitesimal proportion of those which we could have taken up. Owing to a sense of decency, which is deserving of every respect, the victims of these hateful acts usually refuse to disclose them. Doubtless fewer would have been committed if the leaders of an Army whose discipline is most rigorous had taken any trouble to prevent them; yet, strictly speaking, they can only be considered as the individual and spontaneous acts of uncaged beasts. But with regard to arson, theft, and murder the case is very different; the officers, even those of the highest station, will bear before humanity the overwhelming responsibility for these crimes.

In the greater part of the places where we carried on our inquiry we came to the conclusion that the German Army constantly professes the most complete contempt for human life, that its soldiers, and even its officers, do not hesitate to finish off the wounded, that they kill without pity the inoffensive inhabitants of the territories which they have invaded, that they do not spare in their murderous rage women, old men, or children. The wholesale shootings at Lunéville, Gerbéviller, Nomeny, and Senlis are terrible examples of this; and in the course of this report you will read the story of scenes of carnage in which officers themselves have not been ashamed to take part.

The mind refuses to believe that all these butcheries should have taken place without justification. Still, it is so! It is true that the Germans have always advanced the same pretext for them, alleging that civilians had begun by firing upon them. This allegation is a lie, and those who advance it have been unable to give it any probability, even by firing rifle shots in the neighbourhood of houses, as they are accustomed to do, in order to be able to state that they have been attacked by an innocent population on whose ruin or massacre they have resolved. We have many times ascertained the truth of this; here is one among others:—

One evening the Abbé Colin, Curé of Croismare, was standing near an officer when the report of a gun rang out. The latter cried, "Monsieur le Cure, that is enough to cause you to be shot as well as the burgomaster, and for a farm to be burned; look, there is one on fire." "Sir, replied the priest, "you are too intelligent not to recognise the sharp sound of your German rifle. For my part, I recognise it." The German did not press the point.

Personal liberty, like human life, is the object of complete scorn on the part of the German military authorities. Almost everywhere citizens of every age have been dragged from their homes and led into captivity; many have died or been killed on the way.

Arson, still more than murder, forms the usual procedure of our adversaries. It is employed by them either as a means of systematic devastation or as a means of terrorism. The German Army, in order to provide for it, possesses a complete outfit, which comprises torches, grenades, rockets, petrol pumps, fuse-sticks, and little bags of pastilles made of compressed powder which are very inflammable. The lust for arson is manifested chiefly against churches and against monuments which have some special interest, either artistic or historical.

In the Departments through which we have gone thousands of houses have been burned, but we have only investigated in our inquiry fires which have been occasioned by exclusively criminal intention, and we have not believed it our duty to deal with those that have been caused by shells in the course of violent fighting, or due to circumstances which it has not been possible to determine with absolute certainty, such as those at Villotte-devant-Louppy, Rembercourt, Mognéville, Amblaincourt, Pretz, Louppy-le-Château, and other places. The few inhabitants who remained amongst the ruins furnished us with information in absolute good faith on this subject.

We have constantly found definite evidence of theft, and we do not hesitate to state that where a body of the enemy has passed it has given itself up to a systematically organised pillage, in the presence of its leaders, who have even themselves often taken part in it. Cellars have been emptied to the last bottle, safes have been gutted, considerable sums of money have been stolen or extorted; a great quantity of plate and jewellery, as well as pictures, furniture, objets d'art, linen, bicycles, women's dresses, sewing-machines, even down to children's toys, after having been taken away, have been loaded on vehicles to be taken towards the frontier.

The inhabitants have had no redress against all these exactions, any more than they have for the crimes already described; and if some wretched inhabitant dared to beg an officer to be good enough to intervene to spare a life or to protect his goods he received no other reply (when he was not greeted by threats) than the one invariable formula, accompanied by a smile, describing these most abominable cruelties as the inevitable results of war.

SEINE ET MARNE.

As you have already learnt from reading the documents of which we have sent you copies, we proceeded first to the Department of Seine et Marne. We there collected proofs of numerous abuses of the laws of war, as well as of crimes committed against common rights by the enemy, some of which exhibited features of special gravity.

At Chauconin the Germans set fire to five dwelling houses and to six buildings used for agricultural purposes with the assistance of grenades, which they threw on to the roofs, and with sticks of resin which they placed under the doors. M. Lagrange asked an officer the reason of such acts and the latter merely replied: "It is war." Then he ordered M. Lagrange to point out to him the situation of the property known as the Farm Proffit, and a few moments later the buildings of this farm were in flames.

At Congis a body of the enemy were engaged in burning a score of houses, into which they had thrown straw and poured petrol, when the arrival of a French detachment prevented them from carrying out their design.

At Penchard, where three houses had been burnt, Madame Marius René saw a soldier carrying a torch which, stuck in his belt, appeared to form part of his equipment.

At Barcy an officer and soldier made their way to the Mairie, and, after having taken all the blankets belonging to the schoolmaster, set fire to the muniment room.

At Douy-la-Ramé the Germans set fire to a mill, whose situation they had ascertained by inquiry in the neighbourhood. A workman 66 years old had a narrow escape from being thrown into the flames. By struggling violently and clutching on to a wall he was able to avoid the fate with which he was threatened. Finally, at Courtacon, after having compelled the inhabitants to furnish them with matches and faggots, they sprinkled a great number of houses with petrol and set them ablaze. The village, a great part of which is in ruins, presents a lamentable appearance.

Together with these crimes against property, we have been able to place on record in the Department of Seine et Marne many grave offences against the person.

Early in September a German cavalryman arrived one day at about 5 o'clock in the afternoon at the house of M. Laforest, at May-en-Multien, and asked for a drink. M. Laforest hurried off to draw some wine from the cask, but the German, no doubt annoyed at not being served quickly enough fired his rifle at the wife of his host and seriously wounded her. Madame Laforest was taken to Lizy-sur-Ourcq, and there received treatment from a German doctor and had to have her left arm amputated. She recently died in hospital at Meaux.

On the 8th September eighteen inhabitants at Varreddes, among whom was the curé, were arrested without any reason and taken away by the enemy. Three of them managed to escape. None of the others had come back again on the 30th September, the date of our visit. According to information received three of these men had been put to death. However, the death of one of the oldest of them, M. Jourdain, a man of 73, is certainly known.

This unhappy man was dragged as far as the village of Coulombs, and being unable to walk any further was bayoneted in the forehead and shot with a revolver through the heart.

At about the same time a man of 66, named Dalissier, living at Congis, was ordered by the Germans to give up his purse to them. When he proved unable to give them any money, he was tied up with a halter and ruthlessly shot. The marks of about fifteen bullets were found on his dead body.

On the 3rd September, at Mary-sur-Marne, M. Mathe, terrified at the arrival of the German troops, attempted to hide himself under the counter of a wine shop. He was found in his hiding-place and killed by a thrust of a knife or bayonet in the chest.

At Sancy-les-Provins, on the 6th September, about nine o'clock at night, about eighty people were summarily arrested and imprisoned in a sheep-pen. On the next day thirty of them were taken by an officer's order some five kilometres from the village to the barn called "Pierrelez," where a German Red Cross Ambulance was established. There an army doctor (médecin-major) addressed some words to the wounded under his charge, who at once proceeded to load four rifles and two revolvers, their intention being obvious. Moreover, a French Hussar, who had been wounded in the arm and taken prisoner, said to the priest, while asking him for absolution: "I am going to be shot, and it will be your turn next." After having done as the soldier asked him, the priest, unbuttoning his cassock, went and took his place between the mayor and another of his fellow citizens, against a wall along which the hostages were lined up; but at this moment two French chasseurs à cheval suddenly arrived, and the doctors, with their ambulance staff, surrendered to these soldiers, near whom the hussar had hastened to place himself.

As showing the responsibility of officers of high rank for these proceedings, it is interesting to note that the schoolmaster at Sancy, when he was about to be taken off with the others, was allowed to retain his freedom as a favour by General von Dutag, who was quartered on him.

On the 6th of the same month, after having set on fire some of the houses in Courtaçon, a body of soldiers, believed to belong to the Imperial Guard, took five men and a child of thirteen out into the fields, and exposed them to the French fire so long as the engagement lasted. In the confines of the same commune, Edmond Rousseau, liable to serve in the 1914 class, was arrested for the sole reason that his age marked him out as being on the eve of being called up to the colours, and was murdered under tragic circumstances.

The Mayor, who was one of the hostages, when questioned as to the position of this youth from the military point of view, replied that Rousseau had passed the medical examination, that he had been declared fit for service, but that his class had not yet been called up. The Germans thereupon made the prisoner strip, in order to satisfy themselves of his physical condition, then put his trousers on again, and shot him within fifty metres of his fellow citizens.

The town of Coulommiers has suffered considerable pillage. Plate, linen, and boots were taken away, principally from empty houses, and a large number of bicycles were loaded on motor wagons. The Germans occupied this place from the 5th to the 7th September. On the day before they left they arrested, without any pretext, the Mayor and the Procureur de la République, and an officer grossly insulted them. These two officials were kept in custody until the next morning, together with the secretary of the Mairie. Guards were set over the Procureur during the night, and did their best to persuade him by remarks exchanged between them that his execution was imminent.

It is generally believed at Coulommiers that criminal attempts have been made on many women of that town, but only one crime of this nature has been proved for certain. A charwoman, Madame X, was the victim. A soldier came to her house on the 6th September, towards half-past nine in the evening, and sent away her husband to go and search for one of his comrades in the street. Then in spite of the fact that two small children were present he tried to rape the young woman. X. when he heard his wife's cries, rushed back, but was driven off with blows of the butt of the man's rifle into a neighbouring room, of which the door was left open, and his wife was forced to suffer the consummation of the outrage. The rape took place almost under the eyes of the husband, who, being terrorised, did not dare to intervene, and used his efforts only to calm the terror of his children.

In the same way Madame X at Sancy-les-Provins, and Madame Z at Beton-Bazoches, were the victims of similar outrages. The former was forced to submit to the will of a soldier with a revolver at her throat; the second, in spite of her resistance, was thrown upon a bed and outraged in the presence of her little daughter, aged three. The husbands of these two women have been with the Army since the commencement of the war.

On the 6th September at Guérard, where two workmen, Maitrier and Didelot, had been killed at the outposts, the enemy took possession of six hostages. One only was able to escape and return to his village.

At Mauperthuis, on the same day, four Germans who had already gone in the morning to the house of Monsieur Roger, presented themselves there again at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. "There were three of you here this morning and now you are only two. Come out," said one of them. Immediately Roger and a refugee named M. Denet, who was a guest in the house, were seized and led away. The next day, at the end of the village, Madame Roger found the body of her husband, pierced by two bullets. Denet had also been shot, and his body was discovered some little time afterwards in such a state of decomposition as to make it impossible to ascertain the nature of the wounds which the unfortunate man had received.

In a hamlet in the same commune, M.Fournier, caretaker of a farm at Champbrisset, resided with a Swiss named Knell. The Germans took them on a cart as far as Vaudoy and murdered them. An inhabitant of Voinsles, named Cartier, suffered the same fate. As he passed on his bicycle along a road a little way from Vaudoy, he was stopped by the Germans, who searched his bag, in which was a revolver. Cartier, without any resistance, gave up his weapon of his own accord. His eyes were bandaged, and he was shot then and there.

On the 8th September at Sablonnières, where there were scenes of general pillage, M. Delaitre, who had left his house during the battle to take refuge under a culvert, was discovered in his hiding place by a German soldier, who fired at him five times; he died the same day.

At the same place M. Jules Griffaut, 66 years of age, was herding his cows peacefully in a field when a detachment of the enemy passed 150 metres from him. A soldier who was alone in the rear of the column took aim at him and shot him in the face. It is proper to add that a German officer took the trouble to have the wounded man attended to by a German Army doctor, and that Griffaut recovered fairly soon.

At Rebais on the 4th September at 11 in the evening the Germans, after pillaging the jeweller's shop of M. Pantereau and loading the goods which they had taken on to a cart, set fire to the house. They also burned three private houses in the Rue de l'Etang by throwing lighted straw into them.

In this little town serious acts of violence were committed. M. Auguste Griffaut, 79 years of age, was treated with horrible brutality. They repeatedly struck him on the head with their fists. A revolver shot grazed his head. His watch and his purse, containing 800 francs, were stolen from his person.

On the same day, some German soldiers grossly ill-treated Madame X, a wine-shop keeper aged 29, on the pretence that she was hiding English soldiers. They undressed her and kept her in the middle of them completely naked for one-hour-and-a-half; then they tied her to her counter, giving her to understand that they were going to shoot her. They were, however, called out just then, and went away, leaving their victim in charge of an Alsatian soldier, who untied her and restored her to liberty.

Again on the 4th September, other soldiers attempted to rape Madame Z., thirty-four years of age, after having sacked her grocery shop. Angered by her resistance, they tried to hang her, but she cut the rope with a knife which was open in her pocket. She was then beaten mercilessly until the arrival of an officer, who was fetched by a witness of the scene.

At St. Denis-les-Rebais, on the 7th September, a Uhlan obliged Madame X. to undress, threatening her with his rifle; then he threw her on a mattress and raped her while her mother-in-law, powerless to intervene, endeavoured to keep her grandson, eight years old, from this revolting sight.

On the same day, at the hamlet of Marais in the Commune of Jouy-sur-Morin, the three daughters of Madame X., aged respectively 18, 15, and 13, were with their sick mother when two German soldiers entered, seized the eldest, dragged her into the next room and raped her in succession; while one committed his crime, the other watched the door and with his weapons kept back the half-maddened mother.

Frightful scenes occurred at the Château de —— in the neighbourhood of La Ferté-Gaucher. There lived there an old gentleman, M. X., with his servant, Mademoiselle Y., 54 years old. On September 5th several Germans, among whom was a non-commissioned officer, were in occupation of this property. After they had been supplied with food, the non-commissioned officer proposed to a refugee, a Madame Z., that she should sleep with him; she refused. M. X., to save her from the designs of which she was the object, sent her to his farm which was in the neighbourhood. The German ran there to fetch her, dragged her back to the Château and led her to the attic; then, having completely undressed her, he tried to violate her. At this moment M. X., wishing to protect her, fired revolver shots on the staircase and was immediately shot.

The non-commissioned officer then made Madame Z. come out of the attic, obliged her to step over the corpse of the old man, and led her to a closet where he again made two unsuccessful attempts upon her. Leaving her at last, he threw himself upon Mademoiselle Y., having first handed Madame Z. over to two soldiers, who, after having violated her, one once and the othe twice, in the dead man's room, made her pass the night in a barn near them, where one of them twice more had sexual connection with her.

As for Mademoiselle Y., she was obliged, by threats of being shot, to strip herself completely naked and lie on a mattress with the non-commissioned officer, who kept her there until morning.

We have also taken note of the fact that, as appears from declarations made by a municipal councillor of Rebais, two English cavalrymen who were surprised and wounded in this Commune were finished off with gunshots by the Germans when they were dismounted and when one of them had thrown up his hands, showing thus that he was unarmed.

MARNE

In the Department of the Marne, as everywhere else, the German troops gave themselves up to general pillage, which was carried out always under similar conditions and with the complicity of their leaders. The Communes of Heiltz-le-Maurupt; Suippes, Marfaux, Fromentières, and Esternay suffered especially in this way. Everything which the invader could carry off from the houses was placed on motor lorries and vehicles. At Suippes, in particular, they carried off in this way a quantity of different objects, among these sewing machines and toys.

A great many villages, as well as important country towns, were burnt without any reason whatever. Without doubt these crimes were committed by order, as German detachments arrived in the neighbourhood with their torches, their grenades, and their usual outfit for arson.

At Lépine, a labourer named Caqué, in whose house two German cyclists were billeted, asked the latter if the grenades which he saw in their possession were destined for his house. They answered: "No! Lépine is finished with." At that moment nine houses in the village were burnt out.

At Marfaux nineteen private houses were burnt.

At le Gault-la-Forêt, seven or eight houses were burnt. Of the Commune of Glannes practically nothing remains. At Somme-Tourbe, the entire village has been destroyed, with the exception of the Mairie, the church and two private buildings.

At Auve, nearly the whole town has been destroyed. At Etrepy sixty-three families out of seventy are homeless. At Huiron all the houses, with the exception of five, have been burnt. At Sermaize-les-Bains only about forty houses out of nine hundred remain. At Bignicourt-sur-Saultz thirty houses out of thirty-three are in ruins.

At Suippes, the big market town which has been practically burnt out, German soldiers carrying straw and cans of petrol have been seen in the streets. While the mayor's house was burning, six sentinels with fixed bayonets were under orders to forbid anyone to approach and to prevent any help being given.

All this destruction by arson, which only represents a small proportion of the acts of the same kind in the Department of Seine-et-Marne, was accomplished without the least tendency to rebellion or the smallest act of resistance being recorded against the inhabitants of the localities, which are to-day more or less completely destroyed. In some villages the Germans, before setting fire to them, made one of their soldiers fire a shot from his rifle so as to be able to pretend afterwards that the civilian population had attacked them, an allegation which is all the more absurd since at the time when the enemy arrived the only inhabitants left were old men, sick persons or people absolutely without any means of aggression.

Numerous crimes against the person have also been committed. In the majority of the Communes hostages have been taken away; many of them have not returned. At Sermaize-les-Bains, the Germans carried off about 150 people, some of whom were decked out with helmets and coats and compelled, thus equipped, to mount guard over the bridges.

At Bignicourt-sur-Saulx thirty men and forty-five women and children were obliged to leave with a detachment. One of the men—a certain Emile Pierre—has not returned nor sent any news of himself. At Corfélix M. Jacquet, who was carried off on the 7th September with eleven of his fellow citizens, was found five hundred metres from the village with a bullet in his head.

At Champuis the Curé, his maid-servant, and four other inhabitants, who were taken away the same day as the hostages of Corfélix, had not returned at the time of our visit to the place.

At the same place an old man of seventy, named Jacquemin, was tied down in his bed by an officer and left in this state without food for three days. He died a little time after.

At Vert-la-Gravelle a farm-hand was killed. He was struck on the head with a bottle and his chest was run through with a lance.

The garde champêtre Brulefer of le Gault-la-Forêt was murdered at Maclaunay, where he had been taken by the Germans. His body was found with his head shattered and a wound on his chest.

At Champguyon, a commune which has been fired, a certain Verdier was killed in his father-in-law's house. The latter was not present at the execution, but he heard a shot and next day an officer said to him, "Son shot. He is under the ruins." In spite of the search made the body has not been found among them. It must have been consumed in the fire.

At Sermaize, the roadmaker Brocard was placed among a number of hostages. Just at the moment when he was being arrested with his son, his wife and his daughter-in-law in a state of panic rushed to throw themselves into the Saulx. The old man was able to free himself for a moment and ran in all haste after them and made several attempts to save them, but the Germans dragged him away pitilessly, leaving the two wretched women struggling in the river. When Brocard and his son were restored to liberty, four days afterwards, and found the bodies, they discovered that their wives had both received bullet wounds in the head.

At Montmirail a scene of real savagery was enacted. On the 5th September a non-commissioned officer flung himself almost naked on the widow Naudé, on whom he was billeted, and carried her into his room. This woman's father, François Fontaine, rushed up on hearing his daughter's cry. At once 15 or 20 Germans broke through the door of the house, pushed the old man into the street and shot him without mercy. Little Juliette Naudé opened the window at this moment and was struck in the stomach by a bullet, which went through her body. The poor child died after 24 hours of most dreadful suffering.

On the 6th September at Champguyon, Madame Louvet was present at the martyrdom of her husband. She saw him in the hands of ten or fifteen soldiers, who were beating him to death before his own house, and ran up and kissed him through the bars of the gate. She was brutally pushed back and fell, while the murderers dragged along the unhappy man covered with blood, begging them to spare his life and protesting that he had done nothing to be treated thus. He was finished off at the end of the village. When his wife found his body it was horribly disfigured. His head was beaten in, one of his eyes hung from the socket, and one of his wrists was broken.

At Esternay on the 6th September, towards three in the afternoon, 35 or 40 Germans were leading away M. Laurenceau, when he made a sharp movement as if to free himself. He was immediately shot down.

In the same town the following facts have been laid before us:—

During the night between Sunday, the 6th September, and Monday, 7th, the soldiers who were scattered among the houses pillaging discovered the widow Bouché, her two daughters, and Mesdames Lhomme and Macé, who had taken refuge under the cellar staircase. They ordered the two young girls to undress. Then, as their mother tried to intervene, one of the soldiers bringing his rifle to his shoulder fired in the direction of the group of women. The bullet after having struck Madame Lhomme near the left elbow broke the right arm of Mademoiselle Marcelle Bouché at the armpit. During the following day the young girl died as a result of her wound. According to the declarations made by witnesses, the wound was horrible to behold.

Further, our inquiry in the Department of the Marne established other crimes of which women were the victims.

On the 3rd September, at Suippes, Madame X 72 years of age, was seized by a German soldier, who pushed the barrel of his revolver under her chin and brutally flung her on her bed. Her son-in-law rushed up at the noise, fortunately for her, at the moment when the rape was about to be consummated.

At the same place and time, little ——, 11 years old, was for three hours the prey of a licentious soldier, who, having found her with her sick grandmother, dragged her to a deserted house, and stopped her mouth with a handkerchief to prevent her crying out.

On the 7th September, at Vitry-en-Perthois, Madame X, aged 45, and Madame Z, aged 89, were both raped; the latter died a fortnight later.

At Jussecourt-Minecourt, on the 8th September, towards nine in the evening, Mademoiselle X was violated by four soldiers, who broke in the door of her room with the help of a billhook. All four flung themselves on this young girl, who was 21 years old, and ravished her in succession.

As the bombardment of open towns constitutes without doubt a violation of International Law, we thought it necessary to go to Rheims, which was for eighty days bombarded by the Germans. We received a sworn statement from the Mayor, from which we learned that about 300 of the civilian population had already been killed; we saw that in different parts of the town numerous buildings had been destroyed, and we took note of the enormous and irreparable damage which had been inflicted on the Cathedral. The bombardment has continued since the 7th October, the day of our visit; the number of the victims, therefore, must now be very considerable. Everyone knows how the unhappy town has suffered, and that the attitude of the municipality has been above all praise.

While we were working at the Hotel de Ville, six shells were fired in the direction of this building. The fifth fell only a short distance from the principal front, and the sixth burst 15 or 20 metres from the bureaux.

Next day we went to the Château of Baye and witnessed the traces of the sack which this building has suffered. On the first floor a door which leads into a room next to a gallery, where the owner had collected valuable works of art, has been broken in; four glass cabinets have been broken and another has been opened. According to the declarations of the caretaker who, in the absence of her masters, was unable to acquaint us the full extent of the damage, the principal objects stolen were jewels of Russian origin and gold medals. We noticed that the mounts covered with black velvet, which must have been taken out of the cases, were stripped of a part of the jewels which had previously been affixed to them.

Baron de Baye's room was in the greatest disorder. Numerous objects were strewn on the floor from the drawers which remained open. A writing-table had been broken open. A Louis XVI. commode and a bureau à cylindre of the same period had been ransacked.

This room must have been occupied by a person of very high rank, for on the door there still remains a chalk inscription, "J. K. Hoheit." No one could give us exact information as to the identity of this "Highness"; however, a General who lodged in the house of M. Houllier, Town Councillor, told his host that the Duke of Brunswick and the Staff of the 10th Corps had occupied the château.

The same day we visited the Château of Beaumont, which is near Montmirail, and belongs to the Comte de la Rochefoucauld-Doudeauville. The wife of the caretaker declared that this house had been sacked by the Germans in the absence of its owners during an occupation which lasted from the 4th to 6th of September. The invaders left it in an indescribable state of disorder and filth. The writing-tables, bureaux and safes had been broken open. The jewel boxes had been taken from the drawers and emptied.

On the doors of the rooms we could read inscriptions in chalk, among which we took note of the following:—"Excellenz," "Major von Ledebur," "Graf Waldersee."

MEUSE

The Department of the Meuse, a great part of which the German armies still occupy, has suffered cruelly. Important communes there have been destroyed by fires lighted wilfully by the Germans in the absence of any kind of military necessity, and without the populations having given any provocation for such atrocities by their attitude. This is the case particularly at Revigny, Sommeilles, Triaucourt, Bulainville, Clermont-en-Argonne, and Villers-aux-Vents.

The Germans having completely sacked the houses of Revigny and carried off their booty on vehicles, burned two-thirds of the town during three consecutive days from the 6th to the 9th of September, sprinkling the walls with petrol by means of hand-pumps, and throwing into the houses little bags full of compressed powder in tablets. We have been furnished with specimens

of these little bags and these tablets as well as with fuse-sticks of inflammable matter which had been left by the incendiaries.

The church, which was classed as an historical monument, and the Mairie with all its archives, have been destroyed.

Many inhabitants, among whom were children, have been taken away as hostages. They were, however, set at liberty next day, with the exception of M. Wladimir Thomas.

Few localities in the department of the Meuse have suffered as much as the commune of Sommeilles. It is nothing but a heap of ruins, having been completely burnt on the 6th September by a regiment of German Infantry bearing the number fifty-one. The place was set on fire with the help of machines like bicycle pumps with which many of the soldiers were furnished.

This unhappy village was the scene of a terrible drama. At the commencement of the fire Madame X., whose husband is with the colours, took refuge in the cellar of M. et Madame Adnot, together with these latter and their four children aged respectively 11, 5, 4, and 1½ years. A few days afterwards the bodies of all these unfortunate people were discovered in the middle of a pool of blood. Adnot had been shot, Madame X. had her breast and right arm cut off; the little girl of eleven had a foot severed, the little boy of five had his throat cut. The woman X. and the little girl appeared to have been raped.

At Villers-aux-Vents, on the 8th September, German officers invited the inhabitants who had not yet fled to leave their dwellings, warning them that the village was about to be burnt, because, they alleged, three French soldiers had dressed themselves in civilian clothes; others gave the pretext that an installation of wireless telegraphy had been found in a house. The threat was carried out so rigorously that one house alone remains standing.

At Vaubecourt, where six dwelling houses were burnt by the Wurtemburgers, fire was set to a barn with straw piled up by the soldiers.

At Triaucourt, the Germans gave themselves up to the worst excesses. Angered doubtless by the remark which an officer had addressed to a soldier, against whom a young girl of nineteen, Mademoiselle Hélène Procès, had made complaint on account of the indecent treatment to which she had been subjected, they burnt the village and made a systematic massacre of the inhabitants. They began by setting fire to the house of an inoffensive householder, M. Jules Gand, and by shooting this unfortunate man just as he was leaving his house to escape the flames; then they dispersed amongst the houses in the streets, firing their rifles on every side. A young man of seventeen, Georges Lecourtier, who tried to escape, was shot. M. Alfred Lallemand suffered the same fate; he was pursued into the kitchen of his fellow-citizen, Tautelier, and murdered there, while Tautelier received three bullets in his hand.

Fearing, not without reason, for their lives, Mademoiselle Procès, her mother, her grandmother of 71, and her old aunt of 81, Mademoiselle Laure Mennehand, tried with the help of a ladder to cross the trellis which separates their garden from a neighbouring property. The young girl alone was able to reach the other side and to avoid death by hiding in the cabbages. As for the other women, they were struck down by rifle shots. The village curé collected the brains of Mademoiselle Mennehand on the ground on which they were strewn, and had the bodies carried into Procès' house. During the following night the Germans played the piano near the bodies.

While the carnage raged, the fire rapidly spread and devoured thirty-five houses. An old man of 70, Jean Lecourtier, and a child of two months, perished in the flames. M. Igier, who was trying to save his cattle, was pursued for 300 metres by soldiers who fired at him ceaselessly. By a miracle this man had the good fortune not to be wounded, but five bullets went through his trousers. When the curé Viller expressed his indignation at the treatment inflicted upon his parish to the Duke of Wurtemburg, who was lodged in the village, the latter replied: "What would you have? We have bad soldiers just as you have."

In the same commune an attempt at rape was made which was unsuccessful by reason of the obstinate and courageous resistance of the victim; three Germans made the attempt on Madame D., 47 years old. Further, an old woman of 75, Madame Maupoix, was kicked so violently that she died a few days afterwards. While some of the soldiers were ill-treating her others were ransacking her wardrobes.

The little town of Clermont-en-Argonne, on the slope of a picturesque hill in the middle of a pleasant landscape, used to be visited every year by numerous tourists. On the 4th September at night, the 121st and 122nd Wurtemburg Regiments entered the place, breaking down the doors of the houses and giving themselves up to unrestrained pillage, which continued during the whole of the next day. Towards midday a soldier set fire to the dwelling of a clockmaker by deliberately upsetting the contents of an oil lamp which he used for making coffee. An inhabitant, M. Monternach, at once ran to fetch the town fire engine, and asked an officer to lend him men to work it. Brutally refused and threatened with a revolver, he renewed his request to several other officers, with no greater success. Meanwhile the Germans continued to burn the town, making use of sticks on the top of which torches were fastened. While the houses blazed the soldiers poured into the church, which stood by itself on the height, and danced there to the sound of the organ. Then, before leaving, they set fire to it with grenades as well as with vessels full of inflammable liquid, containing wicks.

After the burning of Clermont, bodies of the Mayor of Vauquois, M. Poinsignon (which was completely carbonised), and that of a young boy of eleven, who had been shot at point-blank range, were found.

When the fire was out pillage recommenced in the houses which the flames had spared. Furniture carried off from the house of M. Desforges and stuffs stolen from the shop of M. Nordmann, a draper, were heaped together in motor-cars. An army doctor (médicin-major) took possession of all the medical appliances in the hospital, and an officer of superior rank, after having put up a notice forbidding pillage on the entrance door of the house of M. Lebondidier, had a great part of the furniture of this house carried away on a carriage, intending it, as he boasted without any shame, for the adornment of his own villa.

At the time when this happened the town of Clermont-en-Argonne was occupied by the 13th Wurtemburg Corps, under the command of General Von Durach, and by a troop of Uhlans, commanded by Prince Von Wittenstein.

On the 7th September half a score of German cavalrymen entered the farm of Lamermont in the commune of Lisle-en-Barrois, and after having milk given to them, went away apparently satisfied. After their departure rifle shots were heard in the distance. A little later a second troop, composed of about thirty men, presented themselves in their turn, and accused the farm people of having killed a German soldier. Immediately the farmer Elly and one of his guests, M. Javelot, were seized and taken to a place near, where, in spite of their protestations of innocence, they were mercilessly shot.

At Louppy-le-Château the Germans gave themselves over to immorality and disgusting brutality during the night of the 8th and 9th in a cellar where several women had taken refuge from the bombardment. All these unhappy women were vilely illtreated. Mademoiselle X., aged 71, Madame Y, aged 44, and her two daughters, one aged 13 and the other 8, and Madame Z., were violated.

Hostages have been taken away from many communes. At the beginning of September, at Laimont, eight persons were obliged to follow the German troops, and on the 27th October none of them had returned. The Curé of Nubécourt, who was carried off on the 5th September, has not yet reappeared in his parish.

At Saint-André M. Havette, who was among the number of persons arrested, obtained from an officer permission to watch over the body of his wife, who had been killed on the previous day by a fragment of a shell. In the evening the inhabitants were ordered to collect together in a barn. Havette believed that he was exempt from this order by reason of the authority he had received, and remained at his house until eleven in the evening. When he left his house he was struck down by a rifle bullet.

Of the other villages besides those whose burning we have related, Vassincourt and Brabant-le-Roi were more or less completely burned. Up to now it has not been possible for us to ascertain completely the circumstances of their destruction. Our inquiry so far as it concerns them will be further pursued.

It has been brought to our knowledge that in the Department of the Meuse the enemy has committed acts of cruelty towards the French soldiers who were wounded and prisoners. We will set out the facts of this at the end of the present report.

MEURTHE-ET-MOSELLE.

We arrived in the Department of Meurthe-et-Moselle on the 26th October, and visited a great number of communes in the arrondissements of Nancy and Lunéville.

Nancy, an open town into which the German Army has not been able to enter, was bombarded without formal warning during the night of the 9th and 10th September. About 60 shells fell into the middle of the town and in the southern cemetery—that is, in places where there is no military establishment. Three women, a young girl, and a little girl were killed; 13 people were wounded; the material damage done was considerable.

The enemy's aviators have flown over the town twice. On the 4th September one of them dropped two bombs, by one of which a man and a little girl were killed and six people wounded in the Place de la Cathédrale. On the 13th October three bombs were thrown on the goods station. Four persons employed by the Eastern Railway Company were wounded.

When we reached Pont-à-Mousson, on the morning of the 10th November, seven shells had just been fired by the German batteries a few hours before. It was the 24th day of the bombardment, which began on the 11th August. The evening before a young girl of 19 and a child of 4 had been killed in their beds by fragments of shells. On the 14th August the Germans took as their special objective the hospital, from whose towers floated Red Cross flags, visible from a great distance. No less than 70 shells fell on to this building and we have witnessed the damage they have caused.

About 80 houses were damaged by the different bombardments, all of which took place without any warning. Fourteen civilians, mainly women and children, were killed. There were about the same number of wounded. Pont-à-Mousson is not fortified. Only the bridge over the Moselle had been put in a state of defence, on the outbreak of hostilities, by the 26th Battalion of Chasseurs, who were then quartered in the town.

We experienced real horror when we found ourselves before the lamentable ruins of Nomeny. With the exception of some few houses which still stood near the railway station in a spot separated by the Seille from the principal group of buildings, there remains of this little town only a succession of broken and blackened walls in the midst of ruins, in which may be seen here and there the bones of a few animals partially charred and the carbonised remains of human bodies. The rage of a maddened soldiery has been unloosed there without pity.

Nomeny, on account of its proximity to the frontier, received from the beginning of the war the visits of German troopers from time to time. Skirmishes took place in its neighbourhood, and on the 14th August, in the courtyard of the farm de la Borde, which is a little distance off, a German soldier without any motive killed by a rifle shot the young farm servant Nicholas Michel, aged seventeen.

On the 20th August, when the inhabitants sought refuge in the cellars from the bombardment, the Germans came up after having fired upon each other by mistake and entered the town towards midday.

According to the account given by one of the inhabitants, the German officers asserted that the French were torturing the wounded by cutting off their limbs and plucking out their eyes. They were then in a state of terrible excitement. That day and part of the next the German soldiers gave themselves over to the most abominable excesses, sacking, burning and massacring as they went. After they had carried off from the houses everything which seemed worth taking away, and after they had despatched

to Metz the product of their rifling, they set fire to the houses with torches, pastilles of compressed powder and petrol which they carried in receptacles placed on little carts. Rifle shots were fired on every side; the unhappy inhabitants, who had been driven from the cellars before the firing, were shot down like game—some in their dwellings and others in the public streets.

MM. Sanson, Pierson, Lallemand, Adam Jeanpierre, Meunier, Schneider, Raymond, Duponcel, and Hazotte, father and son, were killed by rifle shots in the streets. M. Killian, seeing himself threatened by a sabre stroke protected his neck with his hand. He had three fingers cut off and his throat gashed. An old man aged 86, M. Petitjean, who was seated in his arm-chair, had his skull smashed by a German shot. A soldier showed the corpse to Madame Bertrand saying, "Do you see that pig there?" M. Chardin, Town Councillor, who was Acting-Mayor, was required to furnish a horse and carriage. He had promised to do all he could to obey, when he was killed by a rifle shot. M. Prevot, seeing the Bavarians breaking into a chemist's shop of which he was caretaker, told them that he was the chemist and that he would give them anything they wanted, but three rifle shots rang out and he fell heaving a deep sigh. Two women who were with him ran away and were pursued to the neighbourhood of the railway station, beaten all the way with the butts of rifles, and they saw many bodies heaped together in the station garden and on the road.

Between 3 and 4 in the afternoon the Germans entered the butcher's shop of Madame François. She was then coming out of her cellar with her boy Stub, and an employee named Contal. As soon as Stub reached the threshold of the entrance to the door he fell severely wounded by a rifle shot. Then Contal, who rushed into the street, was immediately murdered. Five minutes afterwards as Stub was still groaning, a soldier leant over him and finished him off with a blow of a hatchet on the back.

The most tragic incident in this horrible scene occurred in the house of M. Vassé, who had collected a number of people in his cellar in the Faubourg de Nancy. Towards 4 o'clock about 50 soldiers rushed into the house, beat in the door and windows, and set it on fire. The refugees then made an effort to flee, but they were struck down one after the other as they came out. M. Mentré was murdered first; then his son Léon fell with his little sister aged 8 in his arms. As he was not killed outright, the end of a rifle barrel was placed on his head, and his brains blown out. Then it was the turn of the Kieffer family. The mother was wounded in the arm and shoulder. The father and little boy aged 10 and little girl aged 3 were shot. The murderers went on firing on them after they had fallen. Kieffer, stretched on the ground, received another bullet in the forehead, and his son had the top of his head blown off by a shot. Last of all M. Strieffert and one of the sons of Vassé were murdered, while Madame Mentré received three bullets, one in the left leg, another in the arm on the same side, and one on her forehead which was only grazed. M. Guillaume was dragged into the street and there found dead. Simonin, a young girl of 17, came out last from the cellar, with her sister Jeanne, aged 3. The latter had her elbow almost carried off by a bullet. The elder girl flung herself on the ground and pretended to be dead, remaining for five minutes in terrible anguish. A soldier gave her a kick, crying "Capout."

An officer arrived at the end of this butchery, and ordered the women who were still alive to get up and shouted to them "Go to France!"

While all these people were being massacred, others, according to an expression used by an eye-witness, were driven like sheep into the fields under the threat of immediate execution. The curé, in particular, owed his escape from being shot to extraordinary circumstances.

According to the depositions which we have received, all these abominations were committed chiefly by the second and fourth regiments of Bavarian infantry. To explain them, the officers have alleged that civilians had fired on their troops. As our inquiry has established formally, this allegation is a lie, for at the moment when the enemy arrived all arms had been deposited at the Mairie, and the part of the population which had not quitted the country had hidden itself in the cellars, a prey to the greatest terror. Besides, the reason alleged, even were it true, would assuredly be insufficient to excuse the destruction of a whole city, the murder of women, and the massacre of children.

A list of persons who were killed in the course of the burning and the shootings has been drawn up by M. Biévelot, Conseiller d'Arrondissement. The list includes no less than 50 names. We have not quoted all of them. For one thing, among the people whose death has been proved, some died under conditions which are not stated with sufficient precision; on the other hand, the dispersal of the inhabitants of the town which has now been destroyed made our inquiry very difficult. Our efforts will be continued. In any case, what we have already been able to establish beyond dispute is enough to give an idea of what was, on the day of the 20th August, the martyrdom of Nomeny.

Lunéville was occupied by the Germans from the 21st August to the 11th September. During the first few days they were content to rob the inhabitants without molesting them in any other way. Thus, in particular on the 24th August, the house of Madame Jeaumont was plundered. The objects stolen were loaded on to a large vehicle in which were three women, one of them dressed in black and the two others wearing military costumes and appearing, as we were told, to be canteen-women.

On the 25th the attitude of the invaders suddenly changed. M. Keller, the Mayor, went to the hospital about half-past three in the afternoon and saw soldiers firing in the direction of the attic of a neighbouring house, and heard the whistling of the bullets, which appeared to him to come from behind. The Germans declared to him that the inhabitants had fired on them. He protested, and offered to go round the town with them in order to prove the absurdity of this allegation. His proposal was accepted, and as at the beginning of the circuit they came across in the street the body of M. Crombez, the officer commanding the escort said to M. Keller, "You see this body. It is that of a civilian who has been killed by another civilian who was firing on us from a house near the Synagogue. Thus, in accordance with our law, we have burnt the house and executed the inhabitants." He was speaking of the murder of a man whose timid character was known to all, the Jewish officiating minister Weill, who had just been killed in his house, together with his 16-year-old daughter. The same officer added, "In the same way we have burnt the house at the corner of the Rue Castara and the Rue Girardet, because civilians fired shots from there." It is from this dwelling that the Germans alleged shots had been fired on to the courtyard of the hospital, but the position of the building makes it impossible for such a statement to be true.

While the Mayor and the soldiers who accompanied him were pursuing their investigation the fire broke out on different sides; the Hôtel de Ville was burnt as well as the Synagogue and a number of houses in the Rue Castara, and the Faubourg d'Einville was in flames. The massacres, which were continued until the next day, began at the same time. Without counting M. Crombez, the officiating minister Weill and his daughter, whose deaths we have already mentioned, the victims were MM. Hamman, Binder, Balastre (father and son), Vernier, Dujon, M. Kahn and his mother, M. Steiner and his wife, M. Wingerstmann and his grandson, and finally MM. Sibille, Monteils, and Colin.

The murders were committed in the following circumstances:—

On the 25th August, after having fired two shots into the Worms Tannery to create the belief that they were being attacked from there, the Germans entered a workshop in this factory, in which the workman Goeury was working in company with M. Balastre, father and son. Goeury was dragged into the street, robbed there and brutally ill-treated, while his two companions, who were found trying to hide themselves in a lavatory, were killed by rifle shots.

On the same day soldiers came to summon M. Steiner, who had hidden in his cellar. His wife, fearing some misfortune, tried to keep him back. As she held him in her arms she received a bullet in the neck. A few moments after, Steiner, having obeyed the order which had been given to him, fell mortally wounded in his garden. M. Kahn was also murdered in his garden. His mother, aged 98, whose body was burnt in the fire, had first been killed in her bed by a bayonet thrust, according to the account of an individual who acted as interpreter to the enemy. M. Binder, who was coming out to escape the flames, was also struck down. The German by whom he was killed, realised that he had shot him without any motive, at the moment when the unfortunate man was standing quietly before a door. M. Vernier suffered the same fate as Binder.

Towards three o'clock the Germans broke into a house in which were Madame Dujon, her daughter aged 3, her two sons, and M. Gaumier, by breaking the windows and firing shots. The little girl was nearly killed, her face was burnt by a shot. At this moment, Madame Dujon, seeing her youngest son Lucien, 14 years old, stretched on the ground, asked him to get up and escape with her. She then saw that his intestines were protruding from a wound, and that he was holding them in. The house was on fire; the poor boy was burnt, as well as M. Gaumier, who had not been able to escape.

M. Wingerstmann and his grandson aged 12, who had gone to pull potatoes a little way from Lunéville, at the place called "Les Mossus," in the district of Chanteheux, were unfortunate enough to meet Germans. The latter placed them both against a wall and shot them.

Finally, towards five in the evening, soldiers entered the house of the woman Sibille, in the same place, and without any reason took possession of her son, led him 200 metres from the house and murdered him there, together with M. Vallon, to whose body they had fastened him. A witness, who had seen the murderers at the moment when they were dragging their victim along, saw them return without him and noticed that their saw bayonets were covered with blood and bits of flesh.

On the same day a hospital attendant named Monteils, who was looking after a wounded enemy officer at the Hospital of Lunéville, was struck down by a bullet in the forehead while he was looking through a window at a German soldier who was firing.

The next day, the 26th, M. Hamman and his son, aged 21, were arrested in their own house and dragged out by a band of soldiers who had entered by breaking down the door. The father was beaten unmercifully; as for the young man, as he tried to struggle, a non-commissioned officer blew out his brains with a revolver shot.

At one in the afternoon M. Riklin, a chemist, having been informed that a man had fallen about thirty metres from his shop, went to the spot indicated and recognised in the victim his brother-in-law, M. Colin, aged 68, who had been struck in the stomach by a bullet. The Germans alleged that this old man fired upon them. M. Riklin denied this statement. Colin, we are told, was a harmless person, absolutely incapable of an aggressive act, and completely ignorant of the means of using a firearm.

It appeared to us desirable to deal also at Lunéville with acts which are less grave, but which throw a peculiar light on the habits of thought of the invader. On the 25th August M. Lenoir, 67 years of age, together with his wife, were led into the fields with their hands tied behind their back. After both had been cruelly ill-treated, a non-commissioned officer took possession of eighteen hundred francs in gold which M. Lenoir carried on him. As we have already stated, the most impudent theft seems to have formed part of the customs of the German Army, who practised it publicly. The following is an interesting example:

During the burning of a house belonging to Madame Leclerc, the safes of two inhabitants resisted the flames. One, belonging to M. George, Sub-Inspector of Waters and Forests, had fallen into the ruins, the other safe, belonging to M. Goudchau, general dealer, remained fixed to a wall at the height of the second story. The non-commissioned officer Weiss, who was well acquainted with the town, where he had often been welcomed when he used to come before the war to carry on his business of hop-merchant, went with the soldiers to the place and ordered that the piece of wall which remained standing should be blown up with dynamite, and saw that the two safes were taken to the station, where they were placed on a truck destined for Germany. This Weiss was particularly trusted and esteemed by the persons in

command. It was he who, installed at Headquarters, was given the duty of administering the commune in some sense and was in charge of the requisitioning.

After having committed numerous acts of pillage at Lunéville, after having burned about 70 houses with torches, petrol, and various incendiary machines, and after having massacred peaceful inhabitants, the German military authorities thought it well to put up the following proclamation, in which they formulated ridiculous accusations to justify the extortion of enormous contributions in the form of an indemnity :

NOTICE TO THE POPULATION.

On the 25th August, 1914, the inhabitants of Lunéville made an attack by ambuscade against the German columns and transports. On the same day the inhabitants fired on hospital buildings marked with the Red Cross. Further, shots were fired on the German wounded and the military hospital containing a German ambulance. On account of these acts of hostility a contribution of 650,000 francs is imposed on the Commune of Lunéville. The Mayor is ordered to pay this sum—50,000 francs in silver and the remainder in gold—on the 6th September at 9 o'clock in the morning to the representative of the German Military Authority. No protest will be considered. No extension of time will be granted. If the commune does not punctually obey the order to pay 650,000 francs all the goods which are available will be seized. In case payment is not made domiciliary searches will take place and all the inhabitants will be searched. Anyone who shall have deliberately hidden money or shall have attempted to hide his goods from the seizure of the military authorities, or who seeks to leave the town, will be shot. The Mayor and hostages taken by the military authorities will be made responsible for the exact execution of the above order. The Mayor is ordered to publish these directions to the commune at once.

Hénaménil. 3rd September, 1914.
Commander-in-Chief,
Von FOSBENDER.

On reading this extraordinary document one is justified in asking whether the arson and murders committed at Lunéville on the 25th and 26th August by an Army which was not acting under the excitement of battle and which during its preceding days had abstained from killing, were not ordered on purpose to make more plausible the allegation which was to serve as a pretext for the exaction of an indemnity.

The village of Chanteheux, situated quite close to Lunéville, was not spared either. The Bavarians, who occupied it from the 22nd August to the 12th September, burned there 20 houses in the customary manner and massacred 8 persons on the 25th August, Messieurs Lavenne, Toussaint, Parmentier, and Bacheler, who were killed, the first three by rifle shots, the fourth by two shots and a blow with a bayonet; young Schneider, aged 23, who was murdered in a hamlet of the commune; M. Wingerstmann and his grandson, whose death we have recorded above in setting out the crimes committed at Lunéville; lastly, M. Reeb, aged 62, who certainly died as the result of the ill-treatment which he suffered. This man had been taken as hostage with some 42 of his fellow citizens who were kept for 13 days. After having received terrible blows from the butt of a rifle in his face and a bayonet wound in his side, he continued to follow the column, although he lost much blood and his face was so bruised that he was almost unrecognisable, when a Bavarian, without any reason, gave him a great wound by throwing a wooden pail at his forehead . Between Hénaménil and Bures his companions saw that he was no longer with them; no doubt he fell by the way.

If this unhappy man was to suffer the most cruel martyrdom of all, the hostages taken with him in the commune had also to suffer violence and insult. Before setting fire to the village, the hostages were set with their backs to the parapet of the bridge while the troops passed by ill-treating them. As an officer accused them of firing on the Germans, the schoolmaster gave him his word of honour that it was not so. "Pig of a Frenchman,' replied the officer, "do not speak of honour; you have none."

At the moment when her house was burning Madame Cherrier, who was coming out of the cellar to escape suffocation, was drenched with an inflammable liquid by some soldiers who were sprinkling the walls. One of them told her that it was benzine. She then ran behind a dunghill to hide herself with her parents, but the fire raisers dragged her by force in front of the blaze and she was obliged to witness the destruction of her dwelling.

Like Nomeny, the pretty town of Gerbéviller, on the banks of the Mortagne, fell a victim to the fury of the Germans under terrible circumstances. On the 24th August the enemy's troops hurled themselves against some sixty chasseurs à pied, who offered heroic resistance, and who inflicted heavy loss upon them. They took a drastic vengeance upon the civilian population Indeed, from the moment of their entrance into the town, the Germans gave themselves up to the worst excesses, entering the houses with savage yells, burning the buildings, killing or arresting the inhabitants, and sparing neither women nor old men. Out of 475 houses, 20 at most are still habitable. More than 100 persons have disappeared, 50 at least have been massacred. Some were led into the fields to be shot, others were murdered in their houses or struck down as they passed through the streets as they were trying to escape from the conflagration. Up to now 36 bodies have been identified. They are those of MM. Barthélemy, Blosse (senior), Robinet, Chrétien, Rémy, Bourguignon, Perrin, Wuillaume, Bernasconi, Gauthier, Menu, Simon, Lingenheld (father and son), Benoit, Calais, Adam, Caille, Lhuillier, Regret, Plaid (aged 14), Leroi, Bazzolo, Gentil, Victor Dehan, Charles Dehan, Dehan the younger, Brennevald, Parisse, Yong, François, Secretary of the Mairie; Mesdames Perrot, Courtois, Gauthier, and Guillaume, and Mademoiselles Perrin and Miquel.

On the 22nd August, the Germans burnt part of the village of Crévic, using torches and rockets. Seventy-six houses were burnt, including in particular that of General Lyautey, which the fire-raisers had entered, led by an officer crying aloud : "We want Madame and Mademoiselle Lyautey in order to cut their throats." A captain levelling his revolver at M. Vogin's throat threatened to shoot him and throw him into the flames, together with one of his fellow-citizens, "whose brains," he said, "we have already blown out." He was alluding to the death of an old gentleman, M. Liégey, 78 years of age, whose body was found in the ruins with a bullet wound under his chin. The officer added, "Come and see the property of General Lyautey, who is in Morocco—it is burning." Meanwhile a workman named Gérard was forced at the bayonet's point to go up to his garret. The Germans set fire to a heap of forage and obliged Gérard to remain near the blaze. When the soldiers were driven out by the intolerable heat, Gérard was able to escape through a little opening, but he had had one cheek already badly burnt.

At Deuxville, where the enemy wilfully set fire to fifteen houses, the Mayor, Bajole, and the Curé, Thiriet, were arrested. L'Abbé Marchal, Curé of Crion, saw them both in his parish in the hands of the Germans; he approached his colleague and asked the reason of his arrest. The latter replied, "I made signs." L'Abbé Marchal gave him a little bread and went away; but he had scarcely gone thirty paces when he heard the sound of a volley. The two prisoners had just been executed. The next day an officer who spoke our language perfectly, and said that for eight years he had been attached to the German Embassy in Paris, told L'Abbé Marchal that the Curé of Deuxville had made signs and had admitted it. "As for the Mayor," he added, "I do not believe the poor devil had done anything."

At Maixe the Germans burned thirty-six houses and murdered MM. Gauçon, Demange, Jacques, Thomas, Marchal, Chaudre, Grand, Simonin, Vaconet, and Madame Beurton on the pretext that they had been firing at them. Gauçon was dragged from his own house and thrown on a dunghill where a soldier killed him with a rifle shot in the stomach. Demange, who was wounded in both knees while in his cellar, succeeded in dragging himself as far as the kitchen. The Germans set fire to the house and prevented Madame Demange from rescuing her husband, and left their victims to be burnt in the blazing house.

Madame Beurton was also in her cellar with her family when two soldiers came down into it; one of them carried a lantern and the other a rifle. The latter fired haphazard on to the group and hit the unhappy woman. Vaconet was struck by a bullet in the side at the foot of M. Rediger's staircase; as for Simonin, he was taken away in the direction of Drouville. A few days afterwards a German officer handed to M. Thouvenin, municipal councillor of the commune, a note stating that Simonin had been shot and that his last wishes were expressed in a document which was in the hands of the General Commanding the 3rd Bavarian Division. On this document, of which a copy has been sent to us, appears the signature of an officer of the 3rd Regiment of the Chevaux-légers. The other victims at Maixe met their deaths under conditions which we have been unable to ascertain.

In the same village, Mademoiselle X., aged twenty-three years, was raped by nine Germans during the night of August 23rd-24th. An officer was sleeping in the room above that in which this revolting scene was being enacted, but he did not consider it necessary to intervene, though he must certainly have heard the cries of the young girl and the noise made by the German soldiers.

The Château of Beauzemont was broken into on the 22nd August. On the 15th day of its occupation, the wives of several German staff officers arrived in motor cars. Everything that had been stolen from the château, especially plate, hats, and silk dresses, was loaded on the motor cars. On the 21st October the Lieutenant-Colonel commanding the ..... French Infantry Regiment, took possession of this château. He found it in a state of disorder and revolting filth.

At Jolivet, on the 22nd August, M. Villemin was leaving M. Cohan's house with the latter and a M. Richard, when German soldiers fell upon M. Richard. Struck on the head by the butt of a rifle, Richard fell. Cohan rushed back to his house. Villemin went to look after his cattle, after having followed Richard for a short distance as the latter was being led away by his aggressors. At about five o'clock in the evening he went out to see a neighbour, but was immediately arrested and shot. His assassins threw his body over a fence into a garden.

On the 25th August, in the same commune, Madame Morin's house was pillaged. The Germans took linen, plate, furs and hats. The next day the house was set on fire by lighting bits of wood found in packing cases.

At Einville, on the 22nd of August, the day the Germans arrived, they shot a town councillor, M. Pierson, whom they wrongfully accused of having fired on them. They also executed without reason MM. Bouvier and Barbelin, whom they had taken away a short distance from the village. They also massacred a poacher called Pierrat, whom they had found carrying a sack containing a small net and a gun in pieces. The wretched man was horribly tortured by them. Having dragged him beyond the village, they brought him back in front of Madame Famôse's house. The lady saw him pass by in the midst of the Germans. His nose was nearly cut off. His eyes were haggard, and to quote the witness's remark, he seemed to have aged ten years in a quarter of an hour. At this moment an officer gave an order and eight soldiers went off with the prisoner. When they returned ten minutes later without him, one of them said in French, "He was already dead."

On the 12th September M. Dieudonné, Mayor of Einville, was taken off as an hostage with his assistant and another of his townsmen by the enemy at the time of their retreat. He and his companions were taken to Alsace, then into Germany, where they were kept until the 24th October. Before his arrest and during a fight which took place round his commune, M. Dieudonné had been forced, notwithstanding his protests, to commandeer several of his townsmen in order to bury the dead. Three of the inhabitants of Einville thus forcibly employed on this duty were wounded by bullets; another, M. Nöel, was killed by a fragment of a shell.

The Abbé Mathieu, Curé of Fraimbois, was arrested on the 29th of August, on the false allegation that shots had been fired at the Germans in his parish. In the course of his captivity, which lasted sixteen days, he was present at the murder of two of our fellow-countrymen, M. Poissonnier, of Gerbéviller, and M. Victor-Meyer, of Fraimbois; the former, an invalid who could

scarcely stand, was accused of having followed the armies as a spy. The latter had been arrested because his little girl had picked up a bit of telephone wire broken by shrapnel. One morning, towards six o'clock, the Bavarian officers went through a travesty of justice, reading documents drawn up in German, collecting the votes of eight or nine young lieutenants to whom voting papers had been given. The two men were condemned unanimously and warned that they were about to die, and the priest was requested to give them the consolations of religion. They protested their innocence with prayers and tears, but they were compelled to kneel down against the embankment of the road, and a platoon of 24 soldiers drawn up in double file, fired twice at them.

At Mont three houses were burnt with petrol. At Hériménil, on the 20th August, the enemy, who had arrived on the 24th, were guilty of monstrous acts. The inhabitants were asked to come to the church and were kept there for four days, while their houses were sacked and the French bombarded the village. Twenty-four people were killed inside the church by a shell. As a woman, who had succeeded with great trouble in leaving the church for a moment, was returning with a little milk for the children, a captain, furious at seeing that this prisoner had been allowed to pass, cried out, "I meant that the door should not be opened! I meant the French to fire on their own people." This same captain, a short time before, had been guilty of a revolting cruelty. He was present, eye-glass in eye, when Madame Winger, a young woman of twenty-three, was going to the church in obedience to the general order, together with her servants, a girl and two young men, each of them eighteen years old, and, considering their progress too slow, with a word he directed the soldiers to fire, and the four victims fell mortally wounded. The Germans left the corpses in the street for two days.

At Magnières, where one house only was burned, a German armed with a rifle entered, towards the end of August, the house of M. Laurent and compelled a girl of 12, young ——, who had taken refuge there, to accompany him into a room, where he raped her twice, in spite of her ceaseless cries and groans. The poor girl was absolutely terrorised. In addition, the soldier was so threatening that M. Laurent did not dare to interfere.

At Croismare, on the 25th August, when the Germans were forced to beat a retreat, maddened by their check, they began to fire on everybody they met. An Uhlan officer killed with a rifle shot M. Kriegel, who had gone into the field to pull potatoes. He then saw MM. Matton and Barbier returning from their work. He rode up to them and ordered them to stop and stand up against an embankment. The two peasants thought at first that he was anxious to see them sheltered from the rifle shots that were being fired all round. But their delusion was soon dispelled when they saw him load his revolver. In the course of this operation three cartridges were dropped, and the officer ordered Matton and Barbier to pick them up. Barbier handed him one of the cartridges back with the words, "Do not do us any harm; we have just been working in the fields." "Nicht pardon, cochon de franzose, capout," replied the officer, and fired twice. Matton ducked quickly, and thanks to this movement was only hit in the right shoulder instead of full in the chest. As for Barbier, a bullet went through both his thumbs and ripped open his left fore-finger.

The commune of Drouville, which was twice occupied, was absolutely sacked on the 5th September. The invader burned 35 houses, using torches and doubtless petrol also, for they left on the spot a can which contained 25-30 litres.

Finally, on the 23rd August, at Erbéviller, a Saxon captain found a very practical means of getting money for himself. He collected the men in the village, and tried vainly by threatening to shoot them, to obtain a declaration from them that the sentries had been shot at, although he knew perfectly well that it was untrue. Then he shut them up in a barn. In the evening he had brought before him the wife of M. Jacques, a retired schoolmaster, who was one of the prisoners, and said to her, "I am not certain that these are the men who fired. They will be set at liberty to-morrow morning if you can give me a thousand francs in the next few minutes." Madame Jacques gave him the amount, and in reply to her request, he gave her a receipt for it, and the hostages were set at liberty.

The receipt drawn up by the officer reads as follows:

Erbéviller,
23rd August, 1914.

RECEIPT.

As a punishment for being suspected of having fired on German sentries during the night of August 22nd and 23rd I have received from the Commune of Erbéviller one thousand francs (1,000 fr.).

BARON ——— (illegible).
haupt. reit. regim.

In a commune of the Department of Meurthe-et-Moselle two nuns were for several hours exposed without defence to the lust of a soldier. By terrorising them he obliged them to undress, and after having compelled the elder to pull off his boots, he committed obscenities on the younger. We undertook not to publish the names of the victims of this abominable scene, or of that of the village in which it took place, but the facts were laid before us under the sanction of an oath by witnesses who deserve the fullest confidence, and we take the responsibility of pledging ourselves as to their accuracy.

During our stay at Nancy and Lunéville, we had the opportunity of receiving a good deal of evidence with reference to crimes committed by the Germans in districts which were still occupied by their troops, and which the majority of the inhabitants had been forced to evacuate. The most cruel of these acts took place at the village of Emberménil. At the end of October or the beginning of November, an enemy patrol met near this commune a young woman. Madame Masson, who was obviously pregnant, and questioned her as to whether there were French soldiers at Emberménil. She replied that she did not know, which was true. The Germans then entered the village and were received by our soldiers with rifle fire. On the 5th November a detachment of the 4th Bavarian Regiment arrived and collected all the inhabitants in front of the church. An officer then asked which person it was who had betrayed them. Suspecting that he referred to her meeting with the Germans some days before, and realising the danger that all her fellow-citizens ran, Madame Masson with great courage stepped forward and repeated what she had said, and declared that in saying it she had acted in good faith. She was immediately seized and forced to sit down on a bench beside young Dime, aged 24, who had been taken haphazard as a second victim. The whole population begged for mercy for the unhappy woman, but the Germans were inflexible. "One woman and one man," they said, "must be shot. Those are the colonel's orders. What will you? It is war." Eight soldiers drawn up in two ranks fired three times at the two martyrs in the presence of the whole village. The house of Madame Masson's father-in-law was then set on fire. That of M. Blanchin had been burnt a few moments before.

Madame Millot, of Domèvre-sur-Vezouze, has described to us the murder of her nephew, Maurice Claude, aged 17, of which she was an eye-witness. On the 24th August, at the moment when the Germans arrived at Domèvre, this young lad was with his family in his father's house at the foot of a staircase, when he saw that soldiers were aiming at him from the street. He stepped aside to shield himself, but was not able to find shelter, and was struck by three bullets. Wounded in the stomach, in the buttock, and in the thigh, he died three days later after having displayed admirable resignation. When he knew that he was dying, he said to his disconsolate mother, "I can well die for my country."

The same day MM. Auguste Claude and Adolphe Claude, the latter aged 75, were also killed, and 136 houses in the village were burned by means of incendiary cartridges. Further, two inhabitants, MM. Bretton and Labart, were taken as hostages. It is not known what has become of them since.

M. Véron, retired schoolmaster, at Audun-le-Roman, in the arrondissement of Briey, made a deposition before us which runs as follows:

> On the 21 August, towards 5 in the evening, the Germans who had occupied for 17 days the village of Audun-le-Roman, began without any reason to fire upon the houses with rifles and machine guns. Four women, Mademoiselle Roux, Mademoiselle Tréfel, Madame Zapolli, and Madame Giglio, were wounded. Mademoiselle Tréfel was struck while she was giving a drink to a German soldier. Three men were killed: M. Martin, a farmer, aged 68, whose house was burned, was led out and shot in the street in the presence of his wife and children. M. Chary, aged 55, foreman roadmaker, was escaping from the conflagration, holding his wife by the hand, when he was killed by rifle shots. I have seen his body, which was riddled with wounds. M. Ernest Samen was struck by five revolver bullets at the moment when he was shutting the door of his coach house.
>
> I saw the enemy set fire to the Café Matte with petrol. Madame Matte went out with a little bag in her hand containing her savings, about two thousand francs. She was robbed by a German officer who snatched the bag away.

The witness added that the Mayor must have been carried off by a patrol, but in any case he had disappeared.

At Arracourt, M. Maillard was killed in the fields by a bullet which went right through him; five houses were burnt.

The village of Brin-sur-Seille was almost entirely destroyed by fire lighted by cartridges and round fuses. Further, the wife of a man at Raucourt who is with the colours, Madame X. declared to us that she had been raped in her own house in the presence of her little boy aged three and a half, by a soldier who had placed the point of his bayonet on her breast to overcome the resistance which she opposed to him.

OISE.

In the Department of Oise, we have ascertained the following facts:—

When on the 31st August the Germans entered the village of Monchy-Humières, a group of about fifteen people were in the street looking at them as they entered. No act of provocation was committed, but an officer believed that he heard someone say the word "Prussian." At once he directed three dragoons to fall out and ordered them to fire. Young Gaston Dupuis was killed, M. Grandvalet was wounded in the right shoulder by a bullet, and a little girl of four who belonged to a family of refugees from Verdun was slightly wounded in the neck.

Next day the commune of Ravenel was sacked, and the stolen objects were taken away in a carriage. A man named Vilette, while bicycling on the road near the village, met a motor car in which were several Germans. They began to fire at him without any reason. He jumped down from his machine and took to flight across country, but a bullet stopped him on his way. He died a few hours afterwards, leaving a widow and two children.

On the same day, near Méry, the enemy opened fire on some English guns which were drawn up at the place called "Le Bout de la Ville," and an engagement began between the cavalry of the two armies. At this moment the Germans entered the sugar factory, which is situated in a hamlet of the commune. They seized the manager, his family, and all the staff of the factory, and during the three hours which the engagement lasted, made them walk in a parallel line to themselves in order to protect themselves against the fusillade which was catching them on the flank. Among the twenty-five people who were thus exposed to grave danger, were women and children. A work girl, Madame Jeansenne, was killed, and a foreman, Courtois, had a bullet through his left arm. At ten in the evening, the enemy returned in force to the village. They left the next day after having burned the houses and carried out a general sack.

On the 2nd September, the Germans entered Senlis, where they were greeted by rifle fire from African troops. Alleging that they had been fired on by civilians, they set fire to two quarters of the town. 105 houses were burned in the following manner: The Germans marched along the streets in a column; at a whistle from an officer, some of them fell out, and proceeded

to break in the doors of the houses and the shop fronts; then others came along and lit the fire with grenades and rockets; patrols who followed them, fired incendiary bullets with their rifles into those houses in which the fire was not taking hold fast enough.

While our soldiers were firing in the outskirts of the town, the hostages who had been taken into the streets by the Germans, were forced to walk in the middle of the road, while the Germans prudently kept to the footpaths M. Levasseur, Madame Dauchy and her little girl aged five, MM. Pinchaux, Minouflet, and Leymarie, were among the number of the hostages who were thus exposed to death. Near the hospital Levasseur was killed. Soon Leymarie in his turn fell mortally wounded. As he was carrying him to lay him at the foot of a wall, Minouflet was struck by a bullet on the knee. An officer approached him, and told him to show his wound, and then suddenly fired with his revolver into his shoulder. At the same spot, a witness saw another officer in the act of torturing a French wounded soldier by beating him in the face with a stick.

Meanwhile several murders were committed. M. Simon was dragged out of his house and killed by a rifle shot in the side. At two o'clock, the Germans broke in the door of M. Mégret's house. The latter came forward, promised to give them everything they asked for, and brought them ten bottles of wine. He was murdered by a shot full in the chest. MM. Ramu, Vilcoq, Chambellant and Gaudet, drawn by curiosity, went to look at the burning forage-store to which the French troops had set fire as they retired. Enemy soldiers fired on them several times. Ramu was wounded, Gaudet was killed on the spot, Chambellant received two bullets, one in his right hand and the other below the groin, and died a week later. MM Simon, Ecker, Chery, Leblond, Rigauld, Louis, and Momus were also killed in Senlis.

At three o'clock the Mayor, M. Odent, was arrested at the Hôtel de Ville, on the allegation, against which he protested, that civilians had fired on the Germans troops. While he was being led away, the Secretary of the Mairie joined him near the Hôtel du Grand Cerf, and proposed that he should go and fetch his deputies. "It is useless," he replied, "one victim is enough." The magistrate was taken to Chamant, and during the journey was the butt of hateful brutality. His gloves were torn from him and thrown in his face; his stick was taken from him, and he was violently beaten with it on the head. Finally, towards 11 o'clock, he was made to appear before three officers. One of them questioned him, persisting in accusing him of having fired or caused others to fire on the Germans, and warned him that he was about to die. M. Odent then went to his fellow-captives, handed them his papers and money, shook hands with them, and with great dignity made his last adieu. He then returned to the officers. On their order, two soldiers dragged him ten metres away, and sent two bullets through his head. The murderers made a little hollow in the ground and flung over the corpse a layer of earth so thin that it did not cover the victim's feet a few hours before, 200 metres off, six other inhabitants of Senlis, MM. Pommier, Barbier, Aubert, Cottereau, Arthur Rigault, and Dewert had already been shot and buried.

The same evening, M. Jeandin, a baker, who had been arrested at three or four in the afternoon without any reason, and then taken by the 49th Pomeranian Regiment of Infantry to Villers-Saint-Frambourg, was fastened to a stake in a field, and pierced repeatedly with the point of a bayonet.

It is unnecessary to say that the town of Senlis was pillaged. While the enemy sacked the houses they took pleasure in exciting the worst instincts of the populace by offering part of the booty to women in wretched circumstances.

At Villers-Saint-Frambourg, the woman X was raped by a soldier who got into her house. After the crime, she took refuge in a neighbouring house. The precaution was a wise one, for numerous comrades of the aggressor broke into her house, and, furious at not finding the victim they sought, smashed the windows and seized the chickens, the rabbits, and pig which they found in an outhouse.

On September 3rd, at Creil, under the orders of a captain who had tried to force M.M. Guillot and MM. Demonts to show him the houses of the richest inhabitants, the Germans scattered among the houses, breaking in doors and windows, and gave themselves up to pillage with the complicity of their leaders, to whom they came constantly to show the jewellery which they had stolen. Demonts and Guillot were then led into the country where they found about one hundred inhabitants of Creil and Nogent-sur-Oise and the neighbourhood. All these persons were forced to suffer the shame and grief of working against the defence of their country by cutting down a field of maize which hindered the firing of the enemy and by digging trenches intended to shelter the Germans. For seven days the enemy kept them there without giving them food. Some women of the neighbourhood were fortunately able to give them a little.

Meanwhile in the town, several people were put to death. M. Parent, who was escaping, was killed in the Rue Victor Hugo by a shot by an Uhlan. As soon as he fell, troopers hurled themselves upon him to search his clothes. M. Alexandre had his head shattered at the intersection of the Rue Gambetta and the Rue Carnot. Germans entered the shop of M. Brèche, wine-seller. Thinking, no doubt, that he was not serving them quickly enough, they dragged him into the courtyard of Madame Egasse, his neighbour, where an officer accused him of having fired on the soldiers, and ordered, in spite of his denial, that he should be shot at once. Madame Egasse tried to soften the murderers, but she was brutally ordered off. From the room to which she went she heard the reports, and through the window she saw Brèche's body stretched on the ground. When she came down she could not prevent herself from expressing her grief. The officer then said to her: "A dead man! We see too many to take any notice. Besides, wherever we are fired upon, we kill and burn."

A young man named Odener, carrying a bag of rice, had been taken from Liancourt to Creil. When he reached the Place de L'Eglise, worn out by fatigue and the ill-treatment which he had received, he put down his load and tried to escape. Two soldiers took aim at him, fired, and struck him down. A certain Leboeuf, who had been his fellow prisoner, died at Creil a few days afterwards in consequence of a wound which he had received on the way.

General von Kluck's army arrived at Crépy-en-Valois on the 2nd of September, and took four days to march through. The town was completely sacked under the eyes of the officers. In particular the jewellers' shops were ransacked.

Thefts of jewellery and body linen were committed in a house in which lodged a General Commanding with some twelve officers of the General Staff. Almost all the safes in Crépy were gutted.

On the 3rd of the same month, at Baron, an artist of great talent, Professor Albéric Magnard, fired two shots from a revolver on a troop which was entering his property. One soldier was killed and another wounded. The Germans, who in so many places have committed the worst cruelties without any motive, here contented themselves with burning the property of their aggressor. The latter committed suicide to avoid falling into their hands. None the less the commune was sacked. M. Robert, notary, was robbed of his jewellery, his linen, and of 1,471 bottles of wine, and forced to open his safe and allow an officer to take 8,300 francs which were locked up there. In the evening he saw another officer who wore on his finger nine women's rings, and whose arms were adorned with six bracelets. Two soldiers told him, besides, that they received a premium of four marks whenever they brought their commanding officers a piece of jewellery.

In this commune Madame X., a most respectable young woman, was violated by two soldiers in succession in the absence of her husband, who is with the colours. One of these two men ransacked a chest of drawers while his comrade was committing his crime.

At Mesnil-sur-Bulles, on the evening of the 4th of September, two Germans arrived in a carriage, and one on a bicycle, and went to the house of the deputy mayor, M. Gustave Queste. As the latter did not understand them, he asked his cousin, M. Queste, Professor at the Lycée of Amiens, to act as interpreter for him. After having fulfilled this office, the Professor returned home. A few minutes afterwards, hearing a shot, he went out to ascertain what was happening. He found himself in the presence of one of the three soldiers to whom he had just spoken in his cousin's house. This man, who was drunk, fired at him and killed him.

The same three soldiers, passing through Nourard-le-Franc, set fire to seven houses with torches which they had brought with them in their carriage. A few hours before their arrival at Mesnil-sur-Bulles, an Uhlan patrol had already made a reconnaissance in this commune. Troopers entered the house of M. Amédée Queste, burst open a door, broke the furniture, and stole a quantity of jewellery, as well as a sum of 60 francs.

At Choisy-au-Bac, the Germans, who had been in the village since the 31st August, wilfully set fire on the 1st and 2nd September to forty-five houses under the grossly false allegation that they had been fired upon, and previously, in the presence of their officers, gave themselves up to a general pillage, the product of which was carried away in vehicles stolen from the inhabitants. Two army doctors, wearing the brassards of the Red Cross, themselves pillaged the house of Madame Binder.

At Compiègne, which was occupied by the enemy from the 31st of August to the 12th September, the Château suffered comparatively little; the thefts there were not very important. But a great numbr of houses were pillaged. The house of Comte d'Orsetti, which is situated opposite to the Palace, was literally sacked, principally by non-commissioned officers. Plate, jewellery, and valuables were collected in the courtyard of the Château, examined, inventoried, and packed up, and were then loaded in two removal vans on which had been placed the Red Cross flag.

On September 4th a soldier, who had gone to pass the night at the house where Madame X. was concierge, drove the husband with several of the former's relations out of the house, threatening them with his rifle, and then obliged Madame X. to pass the night with him.

One of the most serious acts of which we have been informed in the Department of the Oise was committed near Marquéglise, by an officer of high rank. Two young men of Saint Quentin, named Charlet and Gabet, who had left Paris to return to their native place with the object of obeying the summons to be enrolled for military service, met on the road two Belgian subjects making their way to Jemmapes, where they lived. The latter offered them a lift in their carriage, and the four men journeyed together as far as the village of Ressons, where they were arrested by a German detachment. They were bound, and then taken to the district of Marquéglise, and brought before a superior officer, who questioned them. When he learnt that two of them were natives of Belgium, this officer declared that the Belgians were "sales gens"; then without any explanation, he took his revolver and fired on each of the prisoners in turn. The two Belgians and young Gabet fell dead, struck in the head. As for Charlet, who was wounded in the neck and right shoulder, he pretended to be killed, and after the departure of the murderer, was able to drag himself a certain distance. Before being taken to Compiègne, where he died next day, the unfortunate man was able to describe to the Abbé Boulet, Curé of Marquéglise, the cowardly deed of which his companions and himself had been the victims

AISNE.

In the communes of the Department of the Aisne which we have been able to visit we have everywhere found evidence of acts of pillage and numerous crimes against women.

At Connigis, on the 8th of September, at about eight o'clock in the evening, Madame X. was the victim of grievous violence at the hands of two Germans who had gone to her parents-in-law's house, where she was living, in the absence of her husband who had been mobilised. One of the Germans held M. X., the father, in front of the door, while the other threatening the young woman with his rifle, committed acts of revolting obscenity upon her, in the presence of the mother-in-law. When he had accomplished his crime, he took the place of his comrade, mounting guard over X, while the former in his turn outraged the young woman.

At Jaulgonne, between the 3rd and 10th September, the Prussian Guard emptied the cellars, stole the linen, and did 250.000 francs worth of damage In addition, they burned a house on the allegation that the owner had fired on them, when in reality he was hiding in terror in his cellar.

Two inhabitants of this commune were killed. One, M. Rempenault, aged 87, was found in the fields killed by a bullet; the other, named Blanchard, aged 61, had been arrested because the Prussians had seen him talking in a street with a French chasseur-à-pied, who, after having delayed in the village, had succeeded in taking to flight on a bicycle and escaped a rifle fusillade which was aimed at him. Blanchard was led into an outlying part of Jaulgonne and wounded with a bayonet by a soldier and then finished off by an officer, who shattered his head with a revolver shot.

At Charmel the Germans, from the moment of their arrival, entered the houses by breaking in the doors. They did not leave a bottle of wine in the cellars and they pillaged chiefly the empty houses, carrying away linen, money, jewellery, and other articles. At the house of the schoolmaster they took the funds of the School Savings Bank, which amounted to 240 francs. On the 3rd September, at 11 at night, they set fire to the château of Madame de Rougé, and the same day one of them entered the house of Madame X, seized her by the throat and violated her.

At Coincy on the 3rd and 4th September they emptied the cellars and sacked the empty houses and committed outrages on several women in the village.

At Bezu-St.-Germain, on the 8th of September, two soldier cyclists came to the farm of ****** and passed part of the night there. Having obliged the inhabitants to go to bed, and having forbidden them on pain of death to move, whatever sounds they might hear, one of them went into the room of the little servant girl, aged 13, and, putting his hand on her mouth, committed a complete rape upon her. Hearing a loud cry, the farmer's daughter escaped through her window and called some officers who were lodging with a neighbour. One of them came down, had the two cyclists, who at that moment were coming from the farm, arrested, and marched to headquarters. The next day, when the victim was asked to recognise the culprit and point him out, he had disappeared.

On the 3rd September, at Crézancy, the soldiers made young Lesaint, aged 18, come out of his house, and an officer killed him with a revolver shot. One of the murderer's comrades declared later that this murder had been committed because Lesaint was a soldier, and when a man to whom he was speaking denied this, he added, "He was on the way to be one." He said also that the young man had stupidly caused his own death, because, with the intention of escaping, he had put out the candle which was lighted in his room. Now this candle had not been put out by the unfortunate Lesaint, but had been removed by a soldier who wished to visit the house. In any case, the officer reluctantly admitted that his comrade had fired too soon.

In the same locality M. Dupont, "gérant du familistère," was arrested on the 4th September because he had tried to protect his till against a soldier who was in the act of ransacking it. With a trooper's cap on his head which they had drawn down to his chin, and both his hands tied behind his back, he was made the butt of the Germans, who amused themselves by forcing him to go on to a very high slope, raining blows upon him and pricking him with bayonets every time he fell down. He was taken on the 6th to Charly-sur-Marne with a convoy of military prisoners, and on the 8th September in the morning, his murderers in their retreat forced him to follow the column. As he could not drag himself along in consequence of the violence which he had suffered, the Germans struck him with redoubled vigour and pushed him along holding him under the arms. A kilometre further on, they killed him with a blow from a lance or bayonet through the heart.

At Château-Thierry, where the German troops remained from the 2nd to the 9th September, the pillage was carried out under the eyes of the officers. Later on Army doctors, who remained in the town after the departure of the Army, were included in an exchange of prisoners, and their canteens were opened. They contained articles of clothing which were the product of the sack of the shops.

On the 5th of September the girl ————, aged 14, met a soldier as she was coming back from fetching some bread for her parents. She was dragged into the shop of a shoemaker, and from there into a room where two other Germans joined the first. She was threatened with a bayonet, thrown on to a bed and violated by two of these men. The third was prepared to follow his comrades' example, but allowed himself to be moved by the child's entreaties.

The aunt of this young girl was also the victim of serious crimes at Verdilly, where her family have the farm ————. After having bound her husband, four soldiers belonging to the Heavy Artillery chased her to the house of a neighbour whom they terrorised with threats, and while one of them held her, the others violated her in succession.

At Hartennes-et-Taux in the arrondissement of Soissons, the Germans, as everywhere else, pillaged the houses At the hamlet of Taux, they set fire to the straw with which they had stopped up the openings of an isolated cellar, in which three of the inhabitants were whom they had taken for soldiers. The three men were suffocated by the smoke.

ACTS OF A MILITARY NATURE.

Acts committed in the violation of the laws of war and affecting combatants, murder of wounded or prisoners, stratagems forbidden by international conventions, attacks on doctors and stretcher-bearers, have been innumerable in all the places in which there has been fighting. We have not been able to verify the majority of them because the witnesses are for the most part soldiers, who are obliged to move from place to place continually. Besides, these acts have been set forth in reports addressed by corps leaders to the military authorities, who may add them to the documents of our Inquiry if they think fit to do so. Many are also attested by evidence collected by magistrates in hospitals, and we are engaged at this moment in analysing them with a view to drawing up a supplementary report. A certain number, however, have been laid before us in the course of our investigation.

At Bar-le-Duc, M. Ferry, the head-surgeon, gave us a report of depositions made to him in the course of his duties. Sergeant Lemerre, of the —th Infantry Regiment, told him that on the 6th September, when he was wounded in the leg, at Rembercourt by a fragment of a shell, he had been left on the battlefield eight days by the German Red Cross people, although they knew quite well that he was there. On the fourth day this non-commissioned officer received a further wound by a soldier, who fired at him on the order of an officer, who was going over the scene of the action with his revolver in his hand. Moreover, he repeatedly saw near him German stretcher-bearers firing on our wounded.

The soldier Dreyfus, of the —th Infantry Regiment, related the following story to Dr. Ferry:—

> "On the 10th September at Somaine, as he was leaving the battlefield, wounded, he met three Germans. He told them in German that he had just been wounded, but these men answered that this was no reason why he should not receive another bullet, and they thereupon shot him point-blank in the eye."

At Vaubecourt an Infantry sergeant and two soldiers were shot by the enemy. They alleged that one of the latter was found on the church tower in the village, from which he would have been able to exchange signals with our troops.

On the 22nd August a detachment of Germans arrived in the vicinity of Bouvillers in the Department of Meurthe-et-Moselle, at the farm of La Petite Rochelle, where the owner, M. Houillon, had lodged some French wounded soldiers. The officer in command ordered four of his men to go and finish off nine wounded who were lying in the barn. Each one was shot in the ear. Madame Houillon begged mercy for them, and the officer, placing the barrel of his revolver to her breast, told her to be silent.

On the 25th August the Abbé Denis, Curé of Rémérèville, tended in the evening Lieutenant Toussaint, who last July headed the list of candidates who left the School of Forestry. As he fell wounded on the battlefield, this young officer was struck with bayonets by all the Germans who passed near him. His body was covered with wounds from head to foot.

At the hospital at Nancy, we saw the soldier Voyer, of the ——th Infantry Regiment, who still bore traces of German barbarity, having been badly wounded in the backbone outside the Forest of Champenoux on the 24th August, and paralysed in both legs as the result of his wound. He was lying on his face when a German soldier turned him over brutally with his gun and hit him three times on the head with the butt of his rifle. Other soldiers passing by kicked him and hit him also with the butt of their guns. Finally, one of them with a single blow, caused a wound of about 3 or 4 centimetres under each eye, with what Dr. Weiss head doctor and Professor of Faculty at Nancy, thinks must have been a pair of scissors.

A Hussar who was treated by the same doctor, relates that having fractured his leg falling off his horse, and being unable to extricate himself, he was assaulted by Uhlans, who stole his watch and chain after having taken his carbine and shot him in the eye with it.

Seven French soldiers, also treated by Dr. Weiss, told him that they had seen the enemy finish off the wounded on the battlefield. As they had feigned death to escape massacre, the Germans belaboured them with the butts of their guns to see if they were still alive.

In the same hospital, a German soldier wounded in the stomach, told Dr. Rohmer that his wound had been caused by a revolver shot fired by his own officer, because he had refused to finish off a French wounded soldier. Again, another German, wounded in the back, the result of a shot fired point-blank, told Dr. Weiss that a soldier had fired at him by order of an officer, to punish him for having carried into a village near the battlefield several French wounded soldiers.

On the 25th August, at Einvaux, the Germans fired at a distance of 300 yards at Dr. Millet, Army doctor, belonging to the ——th Colonial Regiment, just as, together with two stretcher-bearers, he was attending a man lying on a stretcher. As his left side was turned towards them the enemy could perfectly see his brassard. And, furthermore, they could not mistake the nature of the work upon which these three men were engaged.

On the same day Captain Perraud, of the same regiment, having noticed, that the soldiers of a section of men his mitrailleuses were firing at, were wearing red trousers, ordered the firing to cease. Immediately this section fired on him and on his men. They were Germans in disguise.

Believe us, etc.,

Paris, 17th December, 1914.

G. PAYELLE, *Président.*
ARMAND MOLLARD,
G. MARINGER,
PAILLOT, *Rapporteur.*

BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL DE LISBOA

BRITISH REPORT.

Butchery—Not War.

MASSACRES BY ORDER.

TERRIBLE RECORD OF RAPINE AND MURDER.

The most appalling record of modern times is that contained in the report, recently issued, of the Committee appointed by the British Government to inquire into the alleged German outrages in Belgium and France.

One has hesitated to believe that troops of any civilised nation could be guilty of barbarities such as were reported; but this official Report—signed by men of such authority as Lord Bryce, Sir Frederick Pollock, K.C., Sir Edward Clarke, K.C., Sir Alfred Hopkinson, K.C., Sir Kenelm Digby, K.C., Mr. H. L. Fisher (Vice-Chancellor of Sheffield University) and Mr. Harold Cox—shows that the frightfulness alleged has been proved to the hilt.

The Committee, indeed, definitely declare it to be proved:—

That there were in many parts of Belgium deliberate and systematically organised massacres of the civil population, accompanied by many isolated murders and other outrages.

That in the conduct of the war generally innocent civilians, both men and women, were murdered in large numbers, women violated, and children murdered.

That looting, house burning, and the wanton destruction of property were ordered and countenanced by the officers of the German Army, that elaborate provision had been made for systematic incendiarism at the very outbreak of the war, and that the burnings and destruction were frequent where no military necessity could be alleged, being indeed part of a system of general terrorisation.

That the rules and usages of war were frequently broken, particularly by the using of civilians, including women and children, as a shield for advancing forces exposed to fire, to a less degree by killing the wounded and prisoners, and in the frequent abuse of the Red Cross and the White Flag.

The Report proceeds:—Sensible as they are of the gravity of these conclusions, the committee conceive that they would be doing less than their duty if they failed to record them as fully established by the evidence.

Murder, lust, and pillage prevailed over many parts of Belgium on a scale unparalleled in any war between civilised nations during the last three centuries.

The Committee express their belief "that these disclosures will not have been made in vain if they touch and rouse the conscience of mankind, and we venture to hope that as soon as the present war is over, the nations of the world in council will consider what means can be provided and sanctions devised to prevent the recurrence of such horrors as our generation is now witnessing."

THE TRUTH OF THE FACTS STAND OUT BEYOND QUESTION.

In view of the gravity of the conclusions, it is important to note with what care the evidence was taken.

More than 1,200 depositions were considered by the committee. Nearly all of these were obtained under the supervision of Sir Charles Mathews, the Director of Public Prosecutions, and of Mr. G. Grimwood Mears, barrister of the Inner Temple. In addition Professor J. H. Morgan collected a number of statements from British soldiers.

A noteworthy feature of many of the depositions, state the committee, is that though taken at different places and on different dates, and by different lawyers from different witnesses, they often corroborate each other in a striking manner.

In dealing with the evidence, the committee report, "we have recognised the importance of testing it severely, and so far as the conditions permit we have followed the principles which are recognised in the courts of England, the British Overseas Dominions, and the United States. We have also set aside the testimony of any witnesses who did not favourably impress the lawyers who took their depositions, and have rejected hearsay evidence except in cases where hearsay furnished an undesigned confirmation of facts with regard to which we already possessed direct testimony from some other source.

"Notwithstanding these precautions, we began the inquiry with doubts whether a positive result would be attained. But the further we went and the more evidence we examined, so much the more was our scepticism reduced. When we found that things which had at first seemed improbable were testified to by many witnesses coming from different places, having had no communication with one another, and knowing nothing of one another's statements, the points in which they all agreed became more and more evidently true. And when this concurrence of testimony, this convergence upon what were substantially the same broad facts, showed itself in hundreds of depositions, the truth of those broad facts stood out beyond question."

ORGANISED OUTRAGES.

KILLING DONE AS PART OF A DELIBERATE PLAN.

Explaining the character and significance of the inhuman acts done by the German army in Belgium, the committee state:—

If a line is drawn on a map from the Belgian frontier to Liége and continued to Charleroi, and a second line drawn from Liége to Malines, a sort of figure resembling an irregular Y will be formed. It is along this Y that most of the systematic (as opposed to isolated) outrages were committed. If the period from August 4 to August 30 is taken, it will be found to cover most of these organised outrages. Termonde and Alost belong to the month of September.

Murder, rape, arson, and pillage began from the moment when the German army crossed the frontier. For the first fortnight of the war the towns and Villages near Liége were the chief sufferers. From August 19 to the end of the month outrages spread in the directions of Charleroi and Malines and reach their period of greatest intensity.

There is a certain significance in the fact that the outrages round Liége coincide with the unexpected resistance of the Belgian army in that district, and that the slaughter which reigned from August 19 to the end of the month is contemporaneous with the period when the German army's need for a quick passage through Belgium at all costs was deemed imperative.

Here let a distinction be drawn between two classes of outrages. Individual acts of brutality—ill-treatment of civilians, rape, plunder, and the like—were very widely committed. These are more numerous and more shocking than would be expected in warfare between civilised Powers, but they differ rather in extent than in kind from what has happened in previous though not recent wars.

In the present war—and this is the gravest charge against the German army—the evidence shows that the killing of non-combatants was carried out to an extent for which no previous war between nations claiming to be civilised (for such cases as the atrocities perpetrated by the Turks on the Bulgarian Christians in 1876 and on the Armenian Christians in 1895 and 1896 do not belong to that category) furnishes any precedent.

That this killing was done as part of a deliberate plan is clear from the facts set forth regarding Louvain, Aerschot, Dinant, and other towns. The killing was done under orders in each place. It began at a certain fixed date, and stopped (with some few exceptions) at another fixed date. Some of the officers who carried out the work did it reluctantly, and said they were obeying directions from their chiefs.

The same remarks apply to the destruction of property. House burning was part of the programme; and villages, even large parts of a city, were given to the flames as part of the terrorising policy.

The invaders appear to have proceeded upon the theory that any chance shot coming from an unexpected place was fired by civilians. At Aerschot, where the Belgian soldiers were stationed in the church tower and fired upon the Germans as they advanced, it was at once alleged by the Germans when they entered the town, and with difficulty disproved, that the firing had come from civilians. Thus one elementary error creeps at once into the German argument, for they were likely to confound, and did in some instances certainly confound, legitimate military operations with the hostile intervention of civilians.

Troops belonging to the same army often fire by mistake upon each other, and that the German army was no exception to this rule is proved not only by many Belgian witnesses, but by the most irrefragable kind of evidence—the admission of German soldiers themselves recorded in their war diaries.

Letters written to their homes which have been found on the bodies of dead Germans bear witness, in a way that now sounds pathetic, to the kindness with which they were received by the civil population. Their evident surprise at this reception was due to the stories which had been dinned into their ears of soldiers with their eyes gouged out, treacherous murders, and poisoned food—stories which may have been encouraged by the higher military authorities in order to impress the mind of the troops as well as for the sake of justifying the measures which they took to terrify the civil population. If there is any truth in such stories, no attempt has been made to establish it.

RUTHLESSLY SLAUGHTERED.

An invading army may be entitled to shoot at sight a civilian caught red-handed, or anyone who, though not caught red-handed, is proved guilty on inquiry. But this was not the practice followed by the German troops. They do not seem to have made any inquiry. They seized the civilians of the village indiscriminately and killed them, or such as they selected from among them, without the least regard to guilt or innocence. The mere cry "Civilisten haben geschossen" was enough to hand over a whole village or district and even outlying places to ruthless slaughter.

Instances, however, are recorded—"gladly," state the committee—where the evidence shows that humanity had not wholly deserted some members of the German army, and that they realised that the responsible heads of that organisation were employing them, not in war, but in butchery.

At Louvain an officer said to a witness:—

I am merely executing orders, and I should be shot if I did not execute them.

At Brussels another officer said:—

I have not done one-hundredth part of what we have been ordered to do by the high German military authorities.

Two classes of murders in particular require special mention, because one of them is almost new, and the other altogether unprecedented. The former is the seizure of peaceful citizens as so-called hostages to be kept as a pledge for the conduct of the civil population, or as a means to secure some military advantage, or to compel the payment of a contribution, the hostages being shot if the condition imposed by the arbitrary will of the invader is not fulfilled.

Such hostage taking, with the penalty of death attached, has now and then happened, the most notable case being the shooting of the Archbishop of Paris and some of his clergy by the Communards of Paris in 1871, but it is opposed both to the rules of war and to every principle of justice and humanity.

The latter kind of murder is the killing of the innocent inhabitants of a village because shots have been fired, or are alleged to have been fired, on the troops by someone in the village.

For this practice no previous example and no justification have been or can be pleaded.

"NOT WAR BUT MURDER."

Soldiers suppressing an insurrection may have sometimes slain civilians mingled with insurgents, and Napoleon's forces in Spain are said to have now and then killed promiscuously when trying to clear guerillas out of a village.

But in Belgium large bodies of men, sometimes including the burgomaster and the priest, were seized, marched by officers to a spot chosen for the purpose, and there shot in cold blood, without any attempt at trial or even inquiry, under the pretence of inflicting punishment upon the village.

Such acts are no part of war, for innocence is entitled to respect even in war. They are mere murders.

The explanation seems to be that these excesses were committed—in some cases ordered, in others allowed—on a system and in pursuance of a set purpose. That purpose was to strike terror into the civil population and dishearten the Belgian troops.

In the minds of Prussian officers war seems to have become a sort of sacred mission. Ordinary morality and the ordinary sentiment of pity vanish in its presence, superseded by a new standard which justifies to the soldier every means that can conduce to success, however shocking to a natural sense of justice and humanity, however revolting to his own feelings. The spirit of war is deified. Cruelty becomes legitimate when it promises victory.

Proclaimed by the heads of the army, this doctrine would seem to have permeated the officers and affected even the private soldiers, leading them to justify the killing of non-combatants as an act of war, and so accustoming them to slaughter that even women and children become at last the victims.

KILLING THE WOUNDED.

ABUSE OF THE RED CROSS AND WHITE FLAG.

The committee state that "after making all allowances, there remain certain instances in which it is clear that quarter was refused to persons desiring to surrender when it ought to have been given, or that persons already so wounded as to be incapable of fighting further were wantonly shot or bayoneted."

They "do not find proof of a general or systematic firing on hospitals," but "cases of the Red Cross being abused are much more definite."

There are several accounts of fire being opened, sometimes at very short range, by machine-guns which had been disguised in a German Red Cross ambulance or car; this was aggravated in one case near Tirlemont by the German soldiers wearing Belgian uniform.

There is also a well-attested case of a Red Cross motor-car being used to carry ammunition under command of officers.

The committee further report that cases where the white flag has been abused are numerous. In one instance the Germans who had "put up a white flag on a lance and ceased fire," and thereby induced a company to advance in order to take them prisoners, "dropped the white flag and opened fire at a distance of 100 yards." This was near Nesle, on September 6, 1914. It seems clearly proved that in some divisions at least of the German army this practice is very common.

The committee adds, "There is, in our opinion, sufficient evidence that these offences have been frequent, deliberate, and in many cases committed by whole units under orders."

CIVILIANS AS SCREENS.

COWARDLY PRACTICE OF THE HUNS.

We have before us, state the committee, a considerable body of evidence with reference to the practice of the Germans of using civilians and sometimes military prisoners as screens from behind which they could fire upon the Belgian troops, in the hope that the Belgians would not return the fire for fear of killing or wounding their own fellow countrymen.

Setting aside doubtful cases, there remains evidence which satisfies us that on so many occasions as to justify its being described as a practice the German soldiers, under the eyes and by the direction of their officers, were guilty of this act.

Thus, for instance, outside Fort Fléron, near Liége, men and children were marched in front of the Germans to prevent the Belgian soldiers from firing.

The progress of the Germans through Mons was marked by many incidents of this character. An English officer describes how he caused a barricade to be erected in a main thoroughfare leading out of Mons when the Germans, in order to reach a cross road in the rear, fetched civilians out of the houses on each side of the main road, and compelled them to hold up white flags and act as cover. Another British officer who saw this incident is convinced that the Germans were acting deliberately for the purpose of protecting themselves from the fire of the British troops. Apart from this protection the Germans could not have advanced, as the street was straight, and commanded by the British rifle fire at a range of 700 or 800 yards. Several British soldiers also speak to this incident.

Numbers of other episodes of a similar character are given in the report. On one occasion children were even roped together and used as a military screen against the enemy; on another, three soldiers went into action carrying small children to protect themselves from flank fire.

TERRIBLE VENGEANCE.

A WORD OF PROTEST, AND THE WOMEN WERE SHOT.

Whenever women or old men irritated the invaders there was swift and terrible retribution.

Two old men and one old woman refused to take bread for the Germans. They were butchered.

A woman was ordered to fetch water. She did so, but then said, "Instead of giving you water you deserve to be shot." The officer immediately drew his revolver and shot both woman and child.

Near Malines a patrol knocked at a door. When the peasant came "the officer said he did not come quickly enough, and that they had 'trained up' plenty of others. His hands were tied behind his back, and he was shot at once, without a moment's delay. The wife came out with a little sucking child. She put the child down, and sprang at the Germans like a lioness. She clawed their faces. One of the Germans took a rifle and struck her a tremendous blow with the butt on the head. Another took his bayonet and fixed it, and thrust it through the child. He then put his rifle on his shoulder, with the child up it, its little arms stretched out once or twice.

"The officers ordered the houses to be set on fire, and straw was obtained, and it was done. The man and his wife and the child were thrown on the top of the straw. There were about 40 other peasant prisoners there, and the officer said, 'I am doing this as a lesson and example to you. When a German tells you to do something next time you must move more quickly.' The regiment of Germans was a regiment of Hussars, with cross-bones and a death's head on the cap."

RECORD OF HORROR.

VILLAGERS SHOT IN BATCHES OF 40 OR 50.

The greater part of the Report is a grim narrative of the actual incidents of savagery proved by the evidence to have occurred. The following extracts are typical:—

At Herve some 50 men escaping from the burning houses were seized, taken outside the town and shot.

At Melen 40 men were shot. In one household the father and mother were shot, the daughter died after being repeatedly outraged, and the son was wounded.

Over 300 houses were burnt at Herve, while mounted men shot into doors and windows to prevent the escape of the inhabitants.

Visé was completely destroyed. Officers directed the incendiaries. Antiques and china were removed from the houses, before their destruction, by officers, who guarded the plunder revolver in hand.

German soldiers gave themselves up to debauchery in the streets of Liége, and on the night of August 20 a massacre took place in the streets. Long before the shooting a citizen was warned by a friendly German soldier not to go out that night.

At Pepinster, two witnesses were seized as hostages and were threatened, together with five others, that unless they could discover a civilian who was alleged to have shot a soldier in the leg they would be shot themselves. One of the hostages convinced the officer that the alleged shooting, if it took place at all, took place in the commune of Cornesse, and not that of Pepinster, whereupon the Burgomaster of Cornesse, who was very old and very deaf, was shot forthwith.

In Malines a witness saw a German soldier cut a woman's breasts after he had murdered her, and saw many other dead bodies of women in the streets.

On a side road at Hofstade the corpse of a civilian was seen on his doorstep with a bayonet wound in his stomach, and by his side the dead body of a boy of five or six with his hands nearly severed.

The two young women were lying in the back yard of the house. One had her breasts cut off, the other had been stabbed.

A young man who had been hacked with the bayonet until his entrails protruded. He also had his hands joined in the attitude of prayer.

In Sempst the corpse of a man with his legs cut off, who was partly bound, was seen; also a girl of seventeen. She alleged that she and other girls had been dragged into a field, stripped naked and violated, and that some of them had been killed with the bayonet.

Two children were bayoneted in Weerde as they were standing in the road with their mother. They were three or four years old. A small farm burning close by formed a convenient means of getting rid of the bodies. They were thrown into the flames from the bayonets.

At Haecht a child of three with its stomach cut open by a bayonet was lying near a house.

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